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Cuba

Castro Meets Soviet Foreign Trade Minister

FL091328 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1303 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Boris Aristov, Soviet foreign trade minister, and Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, met on Thursday [7 January] as part of the Soviet minister's visit to our country.

Fidel and Aristov exchanged opinions on the progress of the national economy and the efforts of the Cuban people to diminish the consequences of the prolonged drought and other factors.

During the meeting, they also evaluated the importance of the bilateral trade which resulted from the talks on the 1988 trade protocol and the exemplary nature of Cuban-Soviet relations.

Aristov and his Cuban colleague Ricardo Cabrisas signed the 1988 trade protocol, which is valued at more than 9 billion pesos.

Meets With Rodriguez

FL081516 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Boris Aristov, Soviet foreign trade minister.

The two leaders held a fraternal exchange of views on the current state of bilateral trade relations and on plans for the current year in view of the protocol that will be signed within the next few days in Cuba.

Aristov described the good impressions he received during his stay in Cuba and during his tour of production and research centers in several provinces.

Signs 1988 Trade Protocol

FL091241 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1112 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Soviet and Cuban Foreign Trade Ministers, Boris Aristov and Ricardo Cabrisas, respectively, have signed in Havana the 1988 bilateral trade protocol.

The amount of trade in 1988 is expected to surpass 9 billion pesos and includes an extensive list of products. Although the protocol was signed at such an early date, more than 95 percent of its commitments are already included in purchase and sale contracts.

The wide range of Soviet products to be made available to Cuba includes fuel, food, raw material, machinery, and appliances and goods, such as color television sets. More color sets will be available than black and white.

For its part, Cuba will increase its supply of citrus crops and various types of electronic equipment. The supply of Cuban sugar will remain similar to that of previous years and the possibility of including medical products in the agreement is being studied.

After signing the protocol, Cabrisas said that during the last few years, including 1987, the two parts have maintained a good level of fulfilling reciprocal commitments. He expressed his conviction these levels will be greater this year. This will be guaranteed, he stressed, by the active and conscious participation of the Soviet and Cuban people who are [words indistinct], who with their unselfish and creative work produce the merchandise we exchange.

For his part, Minister Aristov emphasized that the document is the result of the intense work done by a large collective of workers from the two countries' Foreign Trade Ministries and other organizations.

The two countries are working responsibly in reference to foreign trade, he said. The agreement, he added, establishes an increase in supplies and includes new products.

Caricom

Leaders Issue Communique on Haiti Situation

FL071450 Bridgetown CANA in English 1353 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 7, CANA—Following is the full text of the communique issued here Thursday at the end of an informal meeting of Caribbean Community leaders on the Haiti political situation:

We the Caricom/Caribbean leaders having met in Barbados on Wednesday, January 6, 1988 to discuss the Haitian situation:

1. Bearing in mind our deep interest in the peace, stability, and orderly development of the Caribbean region;

2. Considering our commitment to the promotion of democracy and human rights in the region and elsewhere;

3. Taking into account our solidarity with the people of Haiti in their efforts to achieve political, economic, social, and cultural development with a democratic system which scrupulously respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizen;

4. Bearing in mind the expressed aspiration of our peoples and the people of Haiti for closer ties of friendship and cooperation;

5. Recalling their decision at the eighth meeting of the conference of heads of government of the Caribbean Community in July 1987 that extension of Haiti's current observer status in certain standing committees of Caricom would be conditional upon the holding of proper elections;

6. Recalling that the people of Haiti had been subjected over the past 30 years to a particularly brutal dictatorship which came to an end February 7, 1986 with the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier into exile;

7. Taking note of the appointment of the National Council of Government (CNG) as a provisional government;

8. Noting further that a new constitution for Haiti was overwhelmingly approved by a popular referendum on March 29, 1987;

9. Noting in particular the provision in the new Constitution for the establishment of an independent electoral machinery and the transitional provisions for a Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) to arrange for the holding of the first elections on November 29, 1987;

10. Declare as follows: We regret that there was a breakdown in the relationship between the CNG and CEP;

11. We deplore the acts of violence which took place in Haiti prior to and on November 29, 1987 resulting in a tragic loss of life and which led to the cancellation of the election on November 29, 1987, by the CEP and the immediate dismissal of the CEP by the CNG;

We are profoundly concerned that in appointing the new CEP the CNG has acted in a manner which makes it clear that the new electoral commission is not independent of the government.

This was done despite international protests and despite the urgings of certain Caribbean leaders, the Group of Concerned Caribbean Leaders (GCCL) who visited Haiti December 10, 1987 to emphasise the importance of preserving the credibility of the electoral process;

13. We consider that the new electoral decree contravenes some important democratic electoral practices and has done further damage to the integrity of the electoral process;

14. In summary we consider that the arrangements for the elections now scheduled to be held on January 17, 1988 have been seriously compromised and cannot therefore be regarded as credible. They constitute an impairment to the progress toward democracy which began in Haiti in 1986.

15. We consider that the problem has been complicated by the decision of some leading candidates to withdraw from the elections;

16. Should the elections proceed as scheduled in fulfilment of the express determination of the CNG to hand over power to an elected government on February 7, 1988, as provided in the Constitution, we urge, even at this late stage, that the offending features of the electoral process be removed;

17. We therefore call on the CNG and the CEP—

(A) To recognise the transcendental importance of restoring credibility to the electoral process including in particular the provision for secret balloting;

(B) To ensure that elections are conducted peacefully;

(C) To allow all persons permitted by the Constitution and willing to offer themselves for election to do so; and

(D) To conduct the elections and the transfer of power in such a manner as to ensure that support is given to the new government in its task of fostering the democratic process, strengthening the economy, and improving the quality of life for the Haitian people.

18. We recognise that even in the most favourable circumstances the task will be a difficult one, and that this difficulty will be immensely multiplied if the international community, including the multilateral agencies, are reluctant to extend assistance to Haiti because of a perception on their part that the electoral process was seriously flawed.

19. We earnestly call on the CNG, the CEP, the Church, the candidates and others that exercise authority and influence to open a process of dialogue immediately with a view to reducing differences and hostilities, and ensuring that Haiti does not lose this opportunity to commence the process of joining the family of democratic nations and establishing the international goodwill which can be the springboard for its future development.

20. We express our deep concern that Haiti should not slip back into a dark period of isolation, dictatorship, and atrocity; and that it should not lose the opportunity of a new beginning; but that it should seek with determination and goodwill to build a future of greater hope and justice.

21. We recognise that the essence of democracy lies, not only in the actions of governments nor in the views of institutions and political aspirants, but more importantly in the perceptions and deep-seated convictions of the people themselves.

22. We express solidarity with the people of Haiti in their search for a better future, and commit outselves to be guided by their interests, and to give support to initiatives in international fora for the development of Haiti.

23. Requested the chairman of the meeting to communicate this statement as a matter of urgency to the Chairman of the National Council of Government of Haiti, and to bring it to the attention of the secretaries general of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. (end of text)

Haitian Opposition View

FL072207 Bridgetown CANA in English 2154 GMT 7 Jan 88

[By Sandra Baptiste]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 7, CANA—Haitian opposition politicians who met here Wednesday with Caribbean leaders during a special summit on the political problems of the stife-torn regional state, on Thursday expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of the conference.

At a news conference here they described the end-of-summit statement of the leaders as "timid and inconsistent" and a setback for the struggle to have democracy restored in the French Caribbean island after 30 years of dictatorship.

"We must underline the apparent role of the Jamaican prime minister, through CDU (Caribbean Democratic Union), in postponing a strong Caricom support for the Haitian struggle," said businessman Louis Dejoie, one of four leading presidential candidates.

The communique at the end of the day-long consultation by delegations from 11 of the 13 Caribbean Community (Caricom) states, expressed deep concern about the voting machinery for the January 17 elections, but stopped short of demanding that the poll be called off as favoured by the Haitians.

Dejoie said there were both positive and negative elements in the Caribbean leaders' statement, but the Haitians had "lost this time around," because they had not received the full Caribbean support they had counted on. "We had a lukewarm reception" he told reporters in reference to the meeting yesterday between the five member Haitian delegation and the regional leaders.

Academician Paul la Tortue charged that the communique coincided with the United States' position on Haiti. Dejoie said as a last resort, the Haitian opposition politicians favoured an election supervised by the United Nations, possibly with the assistance of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

He however emphasised that they did not support any military intervention.

La Tortue said there was a struggle by Jamaica to "take over" yesterday's meeting and promote a U.S. point of view of the Haitian situation. He also alluded to the presence in Barbados of U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Caribbean affairs, Richard Holwill whom he said had "come out out the blue.

The United States, La Tortue said, was unable to get Puerto Rico to do "their dirty job" but was able to influence Jamaica.

He said both Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago had previously indicated that they were in favour of a stronger regional position on Haiti. Dejoie said the Haitians were "quite deceived" by Seaga and his group of so-called Caribbean Concerned Leaders (CCL) who were embraced by the Haitian military leader, General Henri Namphy during their visit following the November 29 elections aborted by violence.

Another member of the team, Dr. Wisler Pierre Louis warned that if Haitians did not achieve democracy by peaceful means they would turn to force.

Dejoie said the Haitian opposition presidential candidates were determined to boycott the January 17 poll because it would be unconstitutional and expressed "surprise" that Caribbean leaders were contending that their withdrawal was complicating the problem. He added that it was "impossible" for electoral reforms to be put in place in time for January 17 elections which would be "a masquerade" in which the Army may promote their own candidates.

Under the system being put in place for this month's elections soldiers will be allowed to scrutinise ballots.

Jean Claude Bajeaux charged that the disbanding of the nine-member electoral council after the November 29 elections and the electoral law were both unconstitutional.

Referring to the Caribbean leaders communique Dejoie said it regarded as positive the statement that the electoral law was flawed, that the elections would not be seen as "credible", and that the electoral council was not independent of government.

On the other hand, the Haitian opposition politicians labelled as negative the call for support for a new government coming out of the January 17 poll.

Dejoie said Caricom's present position contradicted positions previously taken by the chairman of the 13-member grouping, St Lucia's prime minister, John Compton.

He said he hoped Caricom would perhaps come up with a new statement after it recognised that democratic states and parliaments around the world were behind the Haitian opposition politicians.

La Tortue said the Haitian team were alarmed about statements allegedly made by the president of Guyana, Desmond Hoyte that he was unsure about their identity.

He said the Haitian parties represented by the delegation which came to the Barbados meeting had the support of 80 percent of the Haitian population.

Dejoie Statement

FL072147 Bridgetown CANA in English 2303 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 6, CANA—A Haitian opposition leader on Wednesday complained about a lack of enthusiasm shown by Caribbean Community leaders toward adopting a decisive position on how to deal with the political crisis in his homeland.

Louis Dejoie, a presidential candidate in last November's aborted elections, made the comment after he and four other Haitian leaders briefed an emergency meeting of Caricom leaders here on the situation back home.

Saying he was angry, Dejoie commented to reporters: "What is Caricom good for? Just to look around and tell you happy birthday when your independence comes."

Dejoie, who was one of the four frontrunners in the elections, expressed fears for his own safety on his return home, citing the possibility of assassination. "I am angry because I know what I am going through," he said.

The Haitian delegation was hoping for a "strong Caricom statement", supporting free and fair elections in their homeland and denouncing the military government for human rights abuses.

The five-member group also wanted a pledge from Caricom that it would not recognise any government chosen in a controversial poll scheduled for January 17 which will be under tight Army control.

Dejoie said he remained hopeful that the regional leaders would still reach a position "that will give more support to our people."

"I want to go back to Haiti and say you have the support of 35 million (people) around this region," he said.

"If you people don't help us, then I don't know who is going to help us."

A conference source said the leaders listened to the case put forward by the Haitian representatives but gave them no response. The conference itself was deadlocked for most of the day by procedural details, in particular determining the nature of the meeting - essentially whether it was a gathering of Caricom or Caribbean leaders.

As a result, sources said, there was little discussion on the Haitian question. One official said, however, [he] was still hopeful the leaders would reach the consensus they came here to find.

Eleven of the 13 Caricom countries were represented. Absent were Belize and Montserrat.

Dominican Republic

Panama's Noriega Arrives for '5-Day Visit'

PA100032 Paris AFP in Spanish 0015 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 9 Jan (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, arrived here this afternoon aboard a military flight that landed at the international airport of this capital at 1415 (1815 GMT), reliable sources confirmed.

In a brief statement, the Panamanian military officer said he arrived in the Dominican Republic "on a 5-day visit."

The same sources noted that Noriega's wife and two daughters arrived in Santo Domingo yesterday and are staying with Noriega in a downtown hotel.

Calls Trip 'Trap' for Enemies

PA101650 Paris AFP in Spanish 1545 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Jan (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, who arrived unexpectedly yesterday in Santo Domingo, created a certain air of suspense today when he said he will return to his country "on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or in a week or two; but I will return."

In exclusive statements published today by LISTIN DIARIO, a Dominican morning newspaper, Panama's strongman did not rule out that his trip to the Dominican Republic, described by him as a "family visit," had nothing to do with the difficult political situation in Panama. Noriega, the center of the current political problems in Panama, said his unexpected departure was a "trap" set for his enemies.

Noriega's statements were made during a private party at the home of General Juan Rene Beauchamps Javier. Noriega's daughter Sandra and Beauchamp's son Juan were married last year.

Noriega said he had not ha.. a chance to meet with his "new family" since the wedding despite their "many requests," and he had decided to do it this weekend.

However, Gen Noriega's arrival in Santo Domingo aboard a Panamanian military plane was unexpected. Foreign Secretary Donald Reid Cabral last night said

that Noriega arrived without prior official notification and that the Panamanian general would be staying in the Dominican Republic for "5 days."

Noriega has very good friends in the Dominican Republic among certain retired military chiefs and businessmen; in previous years, he has made frequent discreet trips to the country, according to what AFP has been able to confirm with persons close to these people.

The general did not hesitate, during his interview with LISTIN DIARIO, to refer to the pressure he is subject to by the U.S. Congress and Administration.

In a cryptic reference to some sort of pact or agreement which he did not specify, he said with his trip to Santo Domingo "I set a trap for them to see how honest their words are."

However, he complained this trip has been taken advantage of "to disinform...which proves they continue being disloyal, conflictive, and lacking in word; and that they try to pass their domestic problems on to Latin America."

Last night, a U.S. State Department spokesman hurriedly denied that Noriega's trip meant he had resigned and described it as a "family visit."

Last week, Richard L. Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, secretely visited Noriega to demand he resign as head of the Defense Forces and the power behind the throne in Panama, and call for free elections, according to U.S. press disclosures.

Both demands, followed by actions by Panamanian domestic opposition, have brought Noriega to the epicenter of a growing political and diplomatic conflict.

In this regard, in his interview with LISTIN DIARIO, Noriega sharply and ironically said: "Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander, is like an atom in the infinite space of the world, and I cannot believe that the great power of the world is afraid of Manuel Antonio Noriega."

After defining himself as a citizen of an American continent which is the mixture of "the Indian's courage, the black's greatness, and the Spaniard's audacity," Noriega threw one of his habitual darts at the United States.

He said: "It has not yet been possible to make the supposedly superior race of the Anglo-Saxons understand. Since they do not understand, they insult, subjugate, and discredit us; but each time they do this, they renovate and strengthen a different blood strain which is dignity, which they will never be able to eliminate in Latin America."

Noriega has insistently argued that the U.S. "campaign" against him aims to invalidate the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, which were signed in 1977 and specify that Panama will assume full sovereignty over the Panama Canal on 31 December 1999.

In this regard, Noriega emphatically said that he could not contribute to "damaging national sovereignty."

As for his return to Panama, which will reportedly take place tomorrow, according a communique issued yesterday by the Defense Forces' staff, Noriega was clearly reluctant to give details.

He said he could return "on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday," but the important thing is that "I will return."

He said that in any case, his presence in his country is not indispensable, because there is an armed force, a peasant force, and labor force there, "which will not take one step backward."

Haiti

Canadian Government Evacuation Plans Reported

FL072350 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[By Yves Marie]

[Text] While the Canadian Government continues to deny the existence of an evacuation plan for Canadian nationals in Haiti, the Canadian television gave some details of that plan last night. Here are the details.

They say if it is evident the situation in Haiti becomes dramatic just before the elections, three Canadian ships already in the Caribbean will abandon any maneuvers they may be conducting and head for Port-au-Prince.

A 140-man company of the 22d Regiment is in Quebec. It will be taken to a place called (Valquartier). From there, it will be sent to San Juan, Puerto Rico aboard a Canadian Armed Forces Boeing 707. They will arrive in Puerto Rico a few hours after the order is given.

The soldiers of the 22d Regiment will be briefed beforehand on the Haitian sociopolitical situation and on how to proceed in Haiti.

In Puerto Rico, they will be put on one of the Canadian warships, which is to transport weapons, munitions, and equipment for that company (?from) Halifax.

The mission of those 140 soldiers is to land in the Port-au-Prince area to protect the evacuation of Canadian nationals and their families. They will be under formal orders to use force only to protect themselves and the lives of the people they come to get.

The Canadian Embassy will give over the phone to Canadians living in Haiti a number of pickup points so that they can assemble and depart in case of danger. The Canadians will be put on a number of small quick boats or helicopters and taken to the big ships.

The soldiers of the 22d Regiment will depart with the last group being evacuated. This Canadian Navy evacuation operation will be coordinated with the naval forces of the United States and France—two countries which also have many citizens living in Haiti.

The French will be evacuated to Guadeloupe, whereas the Canadians will be taken to Puerto Rico, where planes will come pick them up and take them to Canada.

This is not the first time the Canadian Armed Forces envisages such an evacuation. The Canadian television reports that in 1974, when Grenada became independent, a Canadian warship was quickly sent to the port of the capital of Saint George's but, since the transition to independence was calm, evacuation of Canadians was not necessary.

We must say that France also has an evacuation plan, although they do not say so publicly. According to unofficial sources in our possession, the French will be responsible for ensuring the security of Belgian citizens in Haiti.

Thus, this situation confirms ever more that there really does exist an evacuation plan for their nationals living in Haiti prepared by the big powers in concert. Will this evacuation plan turn into an intervention plan, as happened in Grenada? This is the question which remains unanswered today.

Jamaica's Seaga Meets With Foreign Minister

FL082130 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry informs in a news release that Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga made a stopover at the Port-au-Prince international airport yesterday, 7 January on his way to Kingston.

Haitian Foreign Minister Colonel Herard Abraham went to the airport to greet him and they had a brief talk.

CEP Eliminates 8 Presidential Candidates

PA100447 Paris AFP in Spanish 0346 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 9 Jan (AFP)—Eight Haitian presidential candidates, who had been eliminated from the previous presidential election by the former Provisional Electoral Council (CEP), were eliminated again tonight by the new CEP.

Clovis Desinor, former finance minister during Francois Duvalier's regime, and Claude Raymond, former chief of the general staff during Francois and Jean-Claude Duvalier's regimes and also former interior and national defense minister during Jean-Claude Duvalier's regime and considered one of the most important presidential candidates linked to the overthrown regime, were among the candidates who were eliminated.

The decision, which can be appealed to an appeals court, was announced by Haitian Radio Nationale, which read the list of candidates approved by the new CEP.

In addition, special security measures were implemented by the Haitian Army in Port-au-Prince, where many police patrols could be seen tonight.

Bishop Criticizes CNG, 17 January Elections

FL090210 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The big news is the new stand taken by Msgr Willy Romelus, bishop of Jeremie. Msgr Romelus once again condemns the actions of the Duvalierists and the National Government Council [CNG]. He expresses his support for the contentions of the population refusing to participate in the coming 17 January elections organized by the new Provisional Electoral Council [CEP].

He also denounced the repression occurring in Haiti for some time now. He thinks no one will be able to force the people to vote in the 17 January elections. He thinks these elections will allow everyone to discover who is really on the side of the people.

The bishop of Jeremie reiterated his encouragement to the Haitian people in the face of this painful situation.

Let's listen to an excerpt of his statement.

[Begin Romelus recording, speaking Creole] Brothers and sisters, I salute you all and in the face of this pressure we are under, I say to you: have courage, fear nothing. God is coming to bring us deliverance.

The devil may appear to have succeeded for awhile but he cannot always succeed. We have been undergoing this travail for more than 30 years. We have been in misery but these last 2 years have been the worst.

We have seen in Haiti things that never ever happened here before. This is because we have been dealing with bandits, with [word indistinct] of unparalleled stature in Haiti. Daily we hear of crimes being committed all over the place. As for 29 November 1987, there are not even any words for it. Three big organizations got together to put the country through the mill: the CNG, the macoute sector of the Army, and a few other Duvalierists.

The cause—the elections—could not be held. The CNG, which had never stopped being disrespectful of the nation's Constitution, took this Constitution and, before the eyes of the entire world, flung it down into the mud

and trampled it. That meant the CNG does not respect the country. It dissolved the people's CEP. Shortly thereafter, it formed its own CEP and decided for them everything they must do.

It is completely normal for the people to rise up and say they will not participate in the new CEP's elections because the way things are being done is not in keeping with the country's Constitution. That is why declarations to the effect people will not participate in phony, fraudulent, make-believe elections are popping up left and right.

Let me ask you some questions. Doesn't a person have a right to say he will not participate in the 17 January election masquerade? What [words indistinct] who respects (?civilians) can go wallow in that mud? Who in Haiti, or in other countries, doesn't know there are (?forces of evil) who assassinated people on 29 November 1987? Who can say he does not see the CNG violates the Constitution? The only parts of the Constitution the CNG respects are those articles in its favor.

Article 52, paragraph one (?says that) a person must comply with his civic duty. Out of 15 cases [word indistinct] that article you can only find one or two that the CNG has not violated. The article says it is a civic duty to vote, but there should be no coercion in it. [words indistinct] of its own free will. [words indistinct] how things will happen.

Who can trust (those men)? You never know what terrible thing they might be prepared to do. The 17 January elections are for those who do not love the people, for those who are after a (?title), for those who are after a job, for those who are after a position, for those who are after money.

But, on the other hand, those elections are going to help us discover the people who are looking out for [words indistinct]. Even if we don't find out who all the [words indistinct], at least we will discover who many of them are [passage indistinct].

Duvalier Opponent Shot, Arrested in Gonaives

PA092304 Paris AFP in Spanish 2212 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 9 Jan (AFP)—One of the Haitian leaders who headed the movement which overthrew the dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier was shot today during his arrest by police in Gonaives (fourth largest city in Haiti, 152 km northwest of Port-au-Prince), a local correspondent told AFP on the telephone.

Joe Lucie, who was wounded in the leg, hemorrhaged and was taken to the capital under tight military security, the source noted, adding that a small girl was also wounded in the incident.

Joe Lucie was sought by the police for drug trafficking, together with two other opposition leaders, Jean Tatoune and Flauvel Saint Vil, who also played an important part in the overthrow of Duvalier.

According to leaders of the overthrow, the authorities were looking for them to learn about a network of informants connected to the Army.

Meanwhile, a Haitian Government newspaper editorial reported that Article 291 of the new Haitian constitution "violates all the principles of constitutional law and the rights of the peoples."

The newspaper, HAITI LIBRE, states that this article—which bans the staunchest supporters of the Duvalierist regime from holding any public post for 10 years—opens "the path to all arbitrary temptations."

MOP Youth Not To Participate in Elections

FL082140 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The principal supporters of deceased Professor Daniel Fignole's MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country] have withdrawn their support from the MOP's current presidential candidate, Mr Gerard Philippe Auguste. Following an important meeting held yesterday, young members of the MOP from diverse sections of the capital and surrounding areas decided not to participate in next 17 January's elections.

The decision comes the day after the creation of a new political party called the Daniel Fignole Workers and Peasants Front.

[Changes to Creole] We the MOP youth of Bel-Aire, La Saline, Trou Sable, Corridor Brea, Solino, Cite Soleil, and Fort National, after an important meeting held on 6 January, have resolved the following:

Considering that the Macoutes who have infiltrated the MOP are determined to take us to elections under the terrorists who are at the head of the country;

Considering that during his entire life, professor Daniel Fignole never allowed unscrupulous politicians to carry out underhanded dealings at the expense of the people;

Considering what the macoutes did to the members of the MOP on 14 July 1957 in front of Fort Dimanche, where more than 20,000 MOP members lost their lives;

We the MOP youth in Port-au-Prince have decided to adhere to the political line traced and left for us by Professor Daniel Fignole. Gerard Philippe Auguste shall not lead us to the fraudulent elections of 17 January, says the MOP youth from Bel-Aire, La Saline, Solino, Cite Soleil, and Fort National. They say they are firmly resolved to not participate in the coming elections.

The news release from the MOP is signed by: (Anatase Alcindor) and (Michel Loudor) for Bel-Aire; (Jean Robert Demosthene) and (Decius Alceta) for La Saline; (Marie Lourdes Charles) and (Boniface Jean) for Trou Sable; (Dorelien Thomas) for Corridor Bren; (Dieubon Jean-Paul) and (Ginette Martial) for Solino; (Monestin Moles) for Cite Soleil; and (Jean Abel Decimus) for Fort National.

Auguste News Conference

FL090150 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpt] At the beginning of this newscast we reported defections from within the MOP following the decision by MOP leader Gerard Philippe Auguste to participate in the 17 January elections.

Auguste held a news conference this morning. (Clarens Renois) was there for Radio Metropole. (Clarens)"

[(Clarens)] The news conference was held at MOP headquarters located at Delmas 31. MOP Secretary General Gerard Philippe Auguste reconfirmed that he would participate in the 17 January elections but said he would participate only under certain conditions. The first condition is that Article 291, which is to disqualify certain candidates, be applied. You know the terms of the article. Another condition is there must be a guarantee the elections will be honest. The MOP also stressed the security which must prevail during the elections.

The MOP secretary general also denied the rumors of defections within his party and assured the press the MOP had the assent, consent, and support of all its branches in the various Haitian towns which are to participate in these elections. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

CEP President Speaks on Article 291

FL072150 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The new Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] will apply Article 291 of the Constitution, which bars "zealous" former partisans of the Duvalier regimes from public office for 10 years, fully and without faltering. This was said by CEP President Jean Gilbert over the national television station last night.

Article 291 is in the Constitution and the 61 members of the Constitutional Assembly, working for several months to write the new Constitution, were the ones who came up with this violent poison, which I regret but which I cannot remove, said Mr Gilbert. He added that it will be up to the new government elected to remove Article 291 from the Constitution.

He also said there will be candidates to all elected positions for the 17 January elections and that the electoral machinery has been set in place.

Gilbert said the Departmental and Communal Electoral Offices—the BED's and BEC's—have been formed throughout Haiti except on the small island of La Tortue, where a priest—whom he did not name—does not want them to establish a BED and BEC.

The priest, who according to Mr Gilbert has lost sight of his role, has called on the population to abstain from voting in the elections and is organizing public meetings.

It is not our place to see that the law is applied, said Mr Gilbert. He explained he has asked the Justice Ministry and the Ministry of Interior to intervene to see that the law is respected.

Position Clarified

FL082246 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] A news release from the CEP says: Pursuant to the statements made by the CEP president over RTNH [National Radio and Television of Haiti] concerning the application of Article 291 of the Constitution of 1987 and to avoid the spread of false rumors regarding what the CEP said the day before yesterday in the evening—which certain radio stations in the capital began spreading on the very day the statements were made—the CEP news service hastens to issue the following explanations:

First of all, the CEP president said clearly that the CEP will not set Article 291 aside but it is the CEP's duty to fully understand said article so it can apply it properly.

Also, the CEP president said he regretted that the members of the Constitutional Assembly of 1987 had put such an article in the Constitution because he personally did not find it fair; but he also said it was not the CEP's place to change the article, that only the future government could make such a decision.

In the third place, the CEP said that in carrying out its difficult task, the CEP concerns itself only with the Constitution and with the electoral law.

That was a note from the CEP news service dated 7 January 1988.

Veterans' Group Urge People Not To Vote

FL082155 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Veteran Haitian Servicemen's Association has sent us a news release.

It says: At this juncture, we of the association are warning the entire Haitian people that the elections being organized by the macoutes for 17 January 1988 are a trap that the National Government Council [CNG], together with the unconstitutional Provisional Electoral Council, have set in order to massacre the people the way they did on 29 November. [passage omitted]

Considering at this last minute the way they are conspiring to arrest or assassinate the four major and most reliable political leaders in the country, we state we are in solidarity with them, are willing to die with them, and as long as we are around they will not get away with this plot.

Considering how they are confiscating the passports of all democrats at the airport, particularly the case of Dr Turneb Delpe, who is an important democrat in the country; we ask that all passports confiscated be returned quickly, without delay.

In view of all these vile acts of banditry, we ask the CNG to resign.

The association asks all former military throughout Haiti to remain at home and not to vote on 17 January.

KID Calls People To' Wipe Slate Clean'

FL082230 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The Confederation for Democratic Unity [KID], in a news release issued today, asks the Haitian people to continue to organize in order to "wipe the slate clean".

KID offers 10 bits of advice. We will (?quote directly) for you.

KID says it asks the people everywhere in Haiti not to participate in any activity in connection with the election masquerade to be held on 17 January 1988.

KID asks all minor macoutes and poor people among the population not to let the important macoutes lead you, put you up front, and send you out to commit criminal acts against patriots and poor people like yourselves; because they have a plan to kill you afterwards so that you won't talk.

KID asks all patriotic Haitians to organize and set up brigades, in order to (?be ready for) any macoutes—regardless of how they may be dressed—who might come and try to force you to go vote on 17 January.

Still more advice: KID asks the Haitian people to take all necessary measures to see the big Macoutes don't escape once operation "sweep the slate clean" begins.

KID asks the people to denounce everyone who is in one way or another helping the National Government Council to organize the 17 January election masquerade.

As its tenth bit of advice, KID asks the people not to listen to vile talk aimed at sowing confusion—talk to the effect that other countries might land to help get rid of the macoutes—because the macoutes are the children of Haiti.

Thus KID offers 10 bits of advice, among them the advice not to participate in elections.

Soldier Seriously Wounded, Weapon Stolen

FL090140 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2200 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] A soldier on sentry duty in front of the ISPAN [expansion not provided] building located on the corner of Rue Cheriez and Martin Luther King facing Ruelle Camille Leon, has been shot and seriously wounded by two unidentified individuals in a car. According to witnesses, these individuals stole the weapon of the soldier, (Voisard Camus). This young soldier is a member of the 28th Company of the Dessalines Barracks.

The military hospital confirmed to us this morning that the wounded soldier had been admitted to surgery. The soldier was shot in the head, and the doctors at the hospital feel his case is serious. The bullet reportedly burst the eyeball, under the soldier' left browbone.

Late this morning, a detachment of armed soldiers was at the site of the attack.

Trinidad and Tobago

Daily Comments on U.S. Role in Haiti

FL072135 Bridgetown CANA in English 1447 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 7, CANA—The TRINIDAD EXPRESS on Thursday questioned the role of the United States in Haiti in an editorial critical of the Caribbean's approach to the French-speaking Republic in the past. The thugs in soldier's uniforms who are running Haiti on behalf of the Duvalier gangsters are not likely to be impressed by diplomatic niceties, the EXPRESS said.

Where, we wonder, is the hand of Washington in all this? We cannot believe that the United States, which has been involved in Haiti for so long and which had to fly Duvalier safely away from Haitian anger, is simply folding its arms and allowing any number to play in Haiti.

The editorial continued: Not that we are advocating a direct intervention by Washington. But surely the U.S. which eased Duvalier out and Namphy into power, has tremendous influence in Port-au-Prince.

There are those who will say that Namphy in fact rules at the behest of Washington and if that is so then why is he being allowed to get away with cold-blooded murder and the usurpation of the democracy that the Haitian people have been clamouring for?

The Caricom governments cannot escape blame for the shunning of Haiti whose problems have not suddenly been discovered by regional leaders, the EXPRESS said. The

truth is, we have tended to regard Haiti as a country existing in a kind of twilight zone. It is time, though, that Haiti stood shoulder to shoulder with her regional neighbours.

We would welcome such a development much as we abhor the trampling of the rights of the Haitian people, the EXPRESS said.

Extradition of Accused Murderer Unlikely
PA090439 Hamburg DPA in Spanish
0101 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Jan (DPA)—Mexican judicial authorities today virtually ruled out the extradition of Mexican drug trafficker Rafael Caro Quintero to the United States. Caro Quintero was formally charged in Los Angeles yesterday of murdering a DEA agent.

Caro Quintero is currently under arrest and facing trial in Mexico for the production and trafficking of drugs. He was extradited from Costa Rica 2 and 1/2 years ago after he fled and was sought by the DEA and Interpol.

The so-called "marijuana czar" and eight other Mexican citizens, including three policemen, were accused yesterday by a U.S. federal judge of the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena Salazar and his informer Alfredo Zavala Avelar, who were shot to death by unidentified persons at Guadalajara in February 1986.

The Attorney General's office said the U.S. courts may sentence people who are guilty of crimes against U.S. citizens in other countries, but they cannot interfere with Mexican legal procedures.

Likewise, Caro Quintero's lawyer, Efrain Garcia Ramirez, said the trial of his defendant in Los Angeles is "against the law."

Caro Quintero is currently under arrest at the Northern Prison in Mexico City, from which he tried to escape in October—through a tunnel discovered by prison authorities. There is another important Mexican drug trafficker in prison with Caro Quintero: Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo, alias Don Neto, who is charged with the same crime by the U.S. authorities.

Salinas Defines Political Position
PA110013 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Report from Tlaxcala State by Guillermo Ortega Ruiz]

[Excerpt] PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari resumed his campaign activities with a very important statement. In a speech delivered today in Tlaxcala State, Salinas de Gortari defined his political position in these very difficult times for Mexico.

[Begin recording] I am not committed to one specific formula or way of thinking in the economic or any other field. I will know how to change the methods and ways being used to resolve the problems and achieve our main objectives. The only thing I am committed to is the idea of strengthening the basic principles of the Mexican people. [applause] I have committed myself only to continue defending Mexico's sovereignty and independence, to promote democracy, to defend the freedoms the Mexican people love so much, and to make the old, but always present, desire of my countrymen to have justice a reality. I have committed myself to respect these principles. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PMS Candidate Attacks Pact, PRI Platform
PA091401 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 5 Jan 88 p 4

[Article by Scott Lind, Staff Reporter]

[Text] The Mexican Socialist Party (PMS) will appeal to the middle class and business owners as the party outlines a counter-proposal to existing economic policy, PMS presidential candidate Heberto Castillo said Monday.

"During these six years the people have experienced the sharpest decline in living standards," while members of the middle class "have descended into positions they had left after many years of effort," he said.

"Without a change of government, the people of Mexico have no hope," the PMS candidate said, adding the party will outline its alternative economic program as the presidential campaign continues through July.

In addition to workers and the middle class, owners of small-and medium-sized businesses will be solicited in the party's campaign, Castillo said.

One way people can express "hope" is to participate in the Front of Struggle Against the Economic Solidarity Pact, he said, which is composed of PMS and some other opposition parties.

The pact, he said, forces more sacrifices by "freezing" salaries, accepting generalized price increases, instituting higher costs for public goods and services, and reducing federal expenditures.

Castillo questioned whether increasing the inflation rate in the short term will cause declining inflation in the long term, a "given" in the Economic Solidarity Pact's strategy.

"Among the people there are alternatives, and the force exists to defend the national interest...family and campesino in..ome," the PMS candidate said.

Mobilization against the pact by the front occurs on Jan. 12, and is intended by participants to include marches, meetings and a general strike.

The year, 1988, begins with "the highest inflation in Mexico's history," Castillo said.

The only groups that benefit from existing conditions, he said, "are some families who once owned the banks and who now own the Bolsa houses, insurers, and those who continue to own the principle enterprises."

Existing economic policy was meant to reduce inflation and create jobs, but did not achieve its objectives, he said.

Instead, inflation outstripped wages and basic consumer goods became more expensive as subsidies were phased out, he said.

"Along with the deterioration in family income came also a weakening of the productive capacity," Castillo said.

Nevertheless, Mexico continued paying the service on its foreign debt, despite difficulties posed by the 1985 earthquakes and the 1986 drop in petroleum prices, he said.

Then in 1987, "when speculation fell on its own weight, capital flight commenced again along with price relabeling, Castillo said.

"We arrive in 1988 with a much weaker economy," and with an employment level equal to that of 1982, though "5 million" more Mexicans entered the job market, he said.

"We are now with an agriculture that gives us less food per person and with a debilitated public sector with fewer possibilities of intervening in the economy, because it is selling its enterprises or is spending less," he said.

Decreasing expenditures in education, health, agriculture, industry and credit are occurring at a time when the largest enterprises need not make "any sacrifice or concrete commitment," he said.

Other groups participating in the anti-pact mobilization are the Revolutionary Party of Workers (PRT), the Democratic Current, the University Student Council (CEU) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the National Union of Agricultural Workers (UNTA), the Independent Central of Agricultural Workers and Campesinos (CIOAC), and barrio and colonia organizations.

Petricioli Discusses Foreign, Domestic Debt

PA072111 Mexico City XEW Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Finance and Public Credit Secretary Gustavo Petricioli, reported that Mexico's current foreign debt amounts to $102 billion; $85 billion is attributable to the public sector and $17 billion to the private sector. He said that at the latest, by February, the sale of foreign debt bonds will have been negotiated, which will reduce the debt. The secretary added that among the 1988 priorities is taking care of the domestic debt, which totals 30 trillion pesos.

Petricioli, in his first news conference for 1988, discussed several topics. The main theme was the economic solidarity pact, and he reiterated the program will not fail because it has all the viability and consistency to be complied with. He rejected the possibility of a future total price freeze. He said current reserves are higher than those being quoted.

Finally, Petricioli said tax collections for 1988 are expected to surpass 49 trillion pesos.

El Salvador

Duarte Predicts 'Clash' With Ortega at Summit

PA080022 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today stated that every time there is a meeting of Central American presidents, he has an ideological clash with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. He additionally predicted that the same thing would happen in San Jose, Costa Rica, when a new summit under the framework of the Esquipulas II regional peace plan is held.

The Salvadoran president noted that in Guatemala last August, he held a strongly worded discussion with Ortega, even though he shook hands with the Nicaraguan president three times and asked him to comply with the agreements listed in the peace plan.

Ortega said he would comply with the peace plan, "but he has not done so, and I am going to tell him this face-to-face in Costa Rica," Duarte declared. The Salvadoran president also accused Daniel Ortega of "not fully complying with the the peace plan" and of coming up with "cosmetic" solutions.

"I have complied, the Salvadoran president added, especially when it came to granting amnesty to political prisoners." [quotation marks as published] Duarte added: "We do not have any more of this type of prisoners. We have also had to pay a high price for this, since the United States wants to cut off aid for judicial reform in El Salvador due to our release of prisoners charged with killing U.S. citizens."

On the other hand, Duarte noted, there still are prisoners in Nicaragua, and much has to be done to achieve democracy.

The Salvadoran president predicted that the meeting in Costa Rica will be a difficult one. This is because there will be serious discussions, especially when Nicaragua is told about its failure to fulfill the agreements.

As for Guatemala's possible invitation to Cuban President Fidel Castro to attend the summit, Duarte commented, "The presidents have not discussed this matter. However, I do ask Castro to stop sending aid to the Salvadoran guerrillas."

CIVS Begins Visit; Security 'Strict'

PA101350 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] San Salvador, 9 Jan (AFP)—The Esquipulas II International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS) arrived in El Salvador this morning. It will collect information for inclusion in a document that will be presented to the presidents of the region.

Extremely strict security measures were observed for the arrival from Honduras of the 30-person delegation that arrived at 0900 (1500 GMT) at Ilopango Military Airport, located 15 km east of San Salvador.

The CIVS members refused to comment to the press upon their arrival in El Salvador.

Following their arrival at Ilopango Military Airport, the members of the commission were taken to a hotel in west San Salvador. The approximately 20 vehicles used to transport the commission members to their hotel were under very heavy police protection.

During its 1st day in El Salvador, the CIVS will meet with the National Reconciliation Commission. The CIVS will also meet with members of the Army General Command, leaders of the 13 political organizations, representatives of labor unions, and members of the university, religious, and humanitarian sectors.

Meets 'High-Ranking' Officials

PA101540 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Report by Oscar Venancio Ramirez]

[Excerpts] The CIVS is meeting at this moment with high-ranking government officials and the Armed Forces High Command. The approximately 30 representatives of the Contadora and Support Groups, the OAS, and the United Nations will also meet with the opposition sectors. This morning, the CIVS met with Salvadoran officials and brought up the issues of amnesty, dialogue, refugees, and the Central American parliament. [passage omitted on indistinct recording of member of the National Reconciliation Commission].

This afternoon, the CIVS plans to meet with Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador and mediator in the conflict; officials from the University of El Salvador; members of the nongovernmental Human Rights Commission; the Federation of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Missing, and Murdered People; the National Peasant-Worker Unity; and the National Union of Salvadoran Workers. Meetings with the political parties have been scheduled for tomorrow morning. The members of the commission will also meet with members of the Nationalist Republican Alliance and the Legal Assistance Office. Tomorrow at 2100, the members of the CIVS will attend a reception given in their honor.

Honduras

Foreign Minister Criticizes Esquipulas II

PA072208 Paris AFP in Spanish 2027 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Jan (AFP)—Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez today stated that the Esquipulas II peace accords have proven to be unrealistic, and that they have not even moderately met their goals.

Lopez' position reflects the skeptical attitude of the Honduran Government on advances in the peace accords. This is a criterion questioned by Contadora and its Support Group.

Lopez said the procedures agreed to in Guatemala in August "have not even moderately attained the proposed objectives. These goals included more than the establishment a group of internal organizations and mechanisms between countries that do not have a civil war."

Lopez added that the basic purpose of Esquipulas II was "primarily a cease-fire in the countries that do have a civil war; and second, initiating national reconciliation mechanisms and introducing institutional and political changes."

Lopez stressed that "these points have not been complied with."

He emphasized that the Nicaraguan Government, on the contrary, "is comitted—who knows to what extent—to an arms race that appears to be limitless."

Lopez said that "time has proven that compliance with the accords was not realistic, considering how they were negotiated and the time frame assigned to them."

The foreign minister recalled that Honduran President Jose Azcona, in an attempt to reactivate the peace process, 2 months ago proposed to his regional counterparts that the meeting scheduled for 15 January be moved ahead. However, this initiative was rejected.

The Honduran Government has not yet taken any steps to resettle the Nicaraguan contras outside Honduran territory. The contras have operated there since 1982. This is the main point that Honduras must comply with, in accordance with the peace agreements signed on 7 August 1987.

Meanwhile, representatives of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS), which in due course will verify Honduras' compliance or noncompliance with the accords, will on Thursday [7 January] begin a 2-day visit to Honduras as part of a regional tour.

The CIVS will meet representatives of political parties, trade unions, peasant groups, media leaders, and representatives of human rights organizations.

Vice President Alfredo Fortin, government representative to the National Reconciliation Commission, stated that if the guerrillas request a meeting with the CIVS, "we will arrange it."

Communique on Agreement Issued

PA092100 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Report on Foreign Ministry communique; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] The Honduran Foreign Ministry recently sent a report to the foreign ministers of Central America, to the Contadora and Support Groups, and to the UN and OAS secretary generals. This report concerned Honduras' implementation of the Guatemala agreements. According to the lengthy report, Honduras believes that it has no obligation to establish a National Reconciliation Commission. It feels that the provisions outlined for states suffering from civil wars do not apply in its case. President Jose Azcona decided to form the commission to refute those who have argued that our nation has not implemented the Guatemala accords. The National Reconciliation Commission meets periodically and is supported by the executive branch.

The report issued by Honduras states that the government decided to form the National Reconciliation Commission, and that the National Congress issued a decree granting a broad and unconditional amnesty for political prisoners and common criminals. The report adds that a democratic process has prevailed in Honduras since 1980. It additionally notes that there is freedom of thought, free access to the news media; respect for civil, human, and political rights; political and party pluralism, and free elections. The pledge agreed upon in the Guatemala agreements for attaining a cease-fire only applies to countries that suffer from the actions of irregular forces, actions prompted by the deep divisions within these states' societies. This situation is not applicable to Honduras.

As for the Central American parliament, the five presidents in the region have already signed the treaty creating one. The government will adopt the necessary measures to submit the treaty to the Legislative Assembly for approval.

As for to the point that discusses ceasing aid to irregular forces and rebel movements, the Honduran report states that—according to the agreement of the five presidents—this and other pledges would be simultaneously implemented on 5 November. Nevertheless, prior to that date, one of the countries established a provision affecting the pledge concerning amnesty and democratization. That country stated that the CIVS must first verify in situ the implementation of the various states' pledges not to allow the use of their territories for attacks against other states, and to stop all foreign aid to irregular forces.

This caused a rupture in the simultaneous implementation of the agreements. The document later explains that the provision has precluded the goal of the Guatemala accords from being attained. This, in turn, has led to the [words indistinct] procedure, which can only be done by the presidents.

In further referring to the topic of not using a country's territory [for attacks against other states], Honduras has stated that it pledged to dismantle any type of installation or facility for logistical support and operations of irregular and rebel forces that wage a civil war in neighboring countries and may seek shelter in its territory. The presidents agreed that the implementation of this pledge is closely linked to the implementation of those concerning democratization and amnesty.

The document, which was signed by Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras, states that Honduras took the initiative in negotiations on security matters, and the verification, control, and limitation of weapons, so that the pledge could be included in the Guatemala agreements. The negotiations on security issues were reactivated on 2 December at the initiative of the Venezuelan and Honduran Governments. This is because an appropriate mechanism had been found to negotiate formulas to attain harmony and safeguard the interests of each state.

Referring to the exodus of refugees to Honduras, the report says that 42,000 of the 200,000 refugees in the country are currently receiving aid from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees [UNHCR]. These refugees come from Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Honduras has contacted neighboring governments and the UNHCR to establish tripartite commissions for overseeing the voluntary repatriation of refugees. The first 4,300 Salvadoran refugees have already returned to their places of origin, and the repatriation program has also returned 2,504 Nicaraguans. Nevertheless, the meetings at the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, talks that sought to encourage the repatriation of refugees, has resulted in the arrival of several hundred Nicaraguan refugees. There are also reports of people arrested upon entering Nicaragua, presumably due to outstanding charges against them.

Honduras has sought to attain greater international cooperation at the United Nations on refugees by preparing a draft resolution concerning aid to these persons and the repatriation of displaced people in Central America. Honduras has also drafted a resolution requesting the implementation of a plan for giving special economic aid to Central America. The Republic has also participated in the meetings of the executive ministerial commission in charge of Central American integration and regional development within the context of the Esquipulas II accords. On 24 October, Honduras gave its full support to the CIVS and asserted its willingness to assist the commission in completing its work with the necessary facilities, within the framework of the Guatemala agreements. It also voiced its confidence that the other governments in the region would be willing to do likewise.

Since Costa Rican President Oscar Arias presented his Arias plan, Honduras has made significant contributions to convert it into an acceptable and viable instrument. On 26 February [as heard], Honduras suggested a reorganization of the sequence of the Arias plan and a more adequate classification of the pledges. This suggestion was expanded and explained in the document issued on 31 July 1987 that included Honduras' proposals for the peace initiative in Central America. Honduras has acted in good faith. Because the five basic pledges of the Guatemala accords were not publicly and simultaneoulsy implemented, Honduras presented a proposal to the 17th OAS General Assembly for strengthening regional trust and peace. This was aimed at preventing efforts exerted to attain normalcy in the region from failing.

The document asserts: Honduras [words indistinct] situation which has arisen concerning the implementation of the Guatemala accords, has fulfilled all its pledges. Likewise, Honduras states that [words indistinct] Central American crisis, it is willing to continue working and consolidating its position as a country that advocates attaining normalcy in the region by implementing the agreements.

These are the contents of the communique issued by the Honduran Foreign Ministry on the Esquipulas II accords.

MPL 'Cinchonero' Claims Killing of Official

PA072300 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 6 Jan 88

[National Command of the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement, MPL "Cinchonero" January 1988 communique issued in Honduras]

[Text] During Operation Vilorio, the MPL "Cinchonero" executed Isaias Vilorio, an executioner with the DIN [Department of National Investigation] and prominent death-squad member who had been directly involved in the disappearance of many revolutionary compatriots. We must keep in mind that there are not only a hunred missing but many hundreds of missing people.

This operation comes in response to the mockery of top military officers, [President] Azcona Hoyo, the Congress, and the Supreme Court of Justice—open parenthesis, puppets of the gringos, close parenthesis—against the dignity of our people. They have done this by honoring war criminals such as Alexander Hernandez, who has been accused of being responsible for the missing and murdered.

In memory of one of the dear brothers who fell in action in the Nombre de Dios Mountains, the command carrying out this operation bears his name: the Jesus Alfonso Ramos Lopez Command—open parenthesis, Antonio, close parenthesis.

Where are Fidel Martinez, Tomas Nativi, Manfredo Velasquez, and many other missing people? Long live Antonio! Long live the MPL "Cinchonero"! Those who die always triumph! The armed people will triumph!

[Signed] National Command of the MPL "Cinchonero"

Honduras, Central America, January 1988.

Armed Forces, Police Battle 'Crime Wave'

PA090240 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The public relations department of the Honduran Armed Forces has stated that the Public Security Force and the Army's various military-police units will continue patrolling and protecting the country's major cities and neighborhoods. This is to maintain order and to ensure the security and tranquillity of the citizens. This police operation is in response to the pleas of a large number of people to end our country's crime wave.

Citizens are advised to carry their personal identification papers and to fully cooperate with police officials to combat and contain this crime wave.

The Honduran Armed Forces stated that the people would then be assured of enjoying a climate of peace, tranquillity, and security.

Nicaragua

Further on Visit of Verification Committee

Meets With Opposition

PA081715 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Jan 88 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed article: "Political Opposition Explains Its Position to Verification and Follow-Up Commission"]

[Text] The various parties and groups comprising the political opposition yesterday expressed their views on Nicaragua's fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements to the 15 ad hoc members of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission (CIVS). The commission received a document stating the position of the "bloc of the 14 opposition political parties" and the individual ideas of the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT] and the Marxist-Leninist Party [name of party as published].

Carlos Huembes, president of the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, complained to the press about the "elimination of constitutional rights," which has been the case since the declaration of the state of emergency. He added that the bill on municipalities "is fixed."

Huembes said that "the FSLN must realize that as long as it continues its inflexible position, the Esquipulas II agreements will never be fulfilled; the date for the next presidential elections has not even been announced."

After stating that the FSLN "needs all the country's political forces for Nicaragua's reconstruction," Huembes warned that if the FSLN maintains its position "it will sink further."

Myriam Arguello, leader of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, stated that the bloc of the 14 opposition political parties decided to present a single document to CIVS "because even divided as we are, we are still strong."

Referring to the document, Arguello said that it sufficiently explains the reasons for the suspension of the national dialogue; it talks about the lack of a realistic amnesty law and the consequences of the state of emergency. However, the document does not talk about the war of aggression promoted by the U.S. Government, because, according to the conservative leader, "the United States did not sign the Guatemala agreements."

In Arguello's opinion, "no extraregional force influences Nicaragua." When asked about the significance of the aid the United States offers the counterrevolution, she said "who does the financing does not matter, because the counterrevolution has a right to seek aid to continue its struggle." Regarding the approval of $250 million for the Nicaraguan opposition by the U. S. Congress, Arguello said she does not know if the Nicaraguan Conservative Party is going to receive a share. "That is why we do not want to build up our hopes. We do not want what happened to the milkmaid to happen to us," Arguello said, referring to a well-known fable.

Meanwhile, Alejandro Baca Munoz, a member of the Central American Unionist Party (PUCA), said he does not know what topics were discussed at the meeting with the CIVS or what issues would be brought up by the 13 other parties and groups, "because until today I was at my farm looking at my cows."

Politicians Domingo Sanchez of the Socialist Party, Luis Humberto Guzman of the Popular Social Christian Party, and Eli Altamirano of the Communist Party have categorically stated that their organizations' positions are contained in the document presented by the "bloc of 14."

Bonifacio Miranda of the PRT reiterated his rejection of the Guatemala agreements, asserting that the agreements, far from improving Nicaragua's situation, "have

made it worse." He added that the CIVS "is harmful to the people's interests, not only because it emerged from the Esquipulas agreements, but because it is going to hinder the Nicaraguan revolution's progress."

At the meeting with the CIVS, which chose to meet first with the "bloc of 14" and later with the PRT and the MAP-ML [Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Movement], Miranda noted a conflict with the right-wing parties, because, according to him, "it is not that the revolutionary government has not fulfilled the agreement; it is because the only thing it has not done is surrender power. It has made an enormous number of concessions."

Carlos Cuadra of the MAP-ML said his party would advise the CIVS not to turn its effort into "an attitude of meddling in the country's internal political development." We feel, he said, that this commission is not an arbiter or an organization that can dictate rules of political behavior to the Nicaraguans. Instead, it should focus its activity on the U.S. Congress so better results can be achieved.

For independent Liberal Eduardo Coronado, "those of us directing daily political events are an important factor in providing the CIVS with the raw material for its final verdict on fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements." He hoped the organization would be successful in making the peace so desired by Central Americans a reality.

Paper Criticizes Emergency Law

PA101655 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 2

[LA PRENSA report to the CIVS, dated in Managua on 6 January 1988]

[Text] On 19 September 1987, the Nicaraguan Government authorized the reopening of LA PRENSA under the framework of "Esquipulas II" and based on a still inconsistent freedom curtailed by the emergency law. This law hangs like a sword over freedom of expression in Nicaragua.

The emergency law suspended Articles 30, 62, and 66 of the Constitution. These articles guarantee freedom of thought, information, and expression of all Nicaraguans.

In this way, LA PRENSA is published without legal protection and subject to the interpretation that the Sandinist leaders want to give to their personal authorization for LA PRENSA to circulate again.

The 22 radio stations arbitrarily closed down in 1982 are still not operating. The Sandinist government has completely taken over the television information service, thus creating a monopoly of electronically transmitted information. This curtails the right of Nicaraguans to be fully informed.

The reopening of Radio Catolica and its "Iglesia" newscast has also been permitted, but not the free broadcasting of newscasts from other stations. In addition, a request filed by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, to open another television channel has not been considered and negotiated.

LA PRENSA reappeared at the same time that the peace efforts we advocate and support are being made. As long as the emergency law continues to be in force, hampering the way to peace, it will be impossible to consider a democratization process, much less freedom of expression, in Nicaragua.

In the case of LA PRENSA, the facts are specific. Freedom of expression cannot exist while a large number of our reporters, who were persecuted and had to leave the country, cannot enjoy full guarantees to return and full freedom to work as reporters in Nicaragua.

No freedom of expression can exist while our reporters, such as Carlos Ample, go out to work and are attacked by Sandinist mobs. This indicates there are no personal rights in force.

No freedom of expression exists if we consider that 31 of the 157 agents we had in the interior could not reopen their agencies after 1 October, when LA PRENSA resumed publication, for lack of security as a result of the emergency law. These agencies were closed because of Sandinist mob attacks and the imprisonment and threats the agents underwent in previous years.

To this lack of guarantees, we have had to add the Sandinist government's threats against our paper. President Ortega himself said during a news conference in Washington on 11 October that LA PRENSA would be closed again should the United States approve the $270 million for the contras. In this way, freedom of expression in Nicaragua is hinged on this unreasonable logic and arbitrariness.

In addition, Ortega, with his threat against LA PRENSA in Washington, has simply confirmed that we are sort of hostages whose freedom of expression can be canceled if a foreign congress does something that displeases the Sandinist government. Regardless of our actions, the Sandinist government has sentenced us to death if Washington bothers it.

On 28 December, the Day of the Holy Innocents, BARRICADA (the official FSLN organ) reproduced our format, used our logotype, and published, under our name, material clearly subversive according to Sandinist law.

In addition to giving information and using concepts contrary to LA PRENSA's line of thought, BARRICADA clearly intended to make us appear in the eyes of the FSLN's fanatical militants as pursuing illegal and violent purposes.

We report this to you also because this not only openly contradicts the Guatemala agreement but also endangers our staff.

In his yearend message, President Ortega again threatened LA PRENSA, accusing it of receiving money from the CIA.

Similar and groundless threats and reports preceded the 15-month closure decreed on 26 June 1986. There will surely be new future actions against LA PRENSA.

Honorable commission: As you can infer, LA PRENSA's freedom is a precarious one, which the Sandinists have been forced to grant temporarily and which can be terminated at any time.

We are aware that it is the Guatemala agreement that has permitted us to recover our right to freedom of expression, but we do not know for how long. Therefore, it is our responsibility to offer this right to the people so the dictatorial policy can come to an end and a republic of free men can become a reality in Nicaragua.

Managua, 6 January 1988.

Violeta B. de Chamorro, director and chairperson of LA PRENSA's board of directors

Accords' Noncompliance Alleged

PA0723277 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] According to Jorge Hernandez Alcero, ambassador to the United Nations and Honduran representative on the CIVS, Nicaragua has not fulfilled the Esquipulas II agreement. He criticized the fact that Nicaragua has established conditions for fulfilling the agreement, specifically those parts relating to the amnesty decree and the suspension of the state of emergency.

Honduras, Hernandez Alcero said, has fulfilled the agreements and commitments it had made, but he did not specify which commitments had been honored. When asked if Honduras would agree to have the commission verify this in situ, he answered that Honduras would agree to this as long as the verification fell within the concept of simultaneity.

[Begin recording] [Hernandez] Simultaneity should have taken place, as I explained a moment ago, on 5 November 1987. However, that did not happen. At a meeting in Washington in November, the CIVS proved that these commitments had not been implemented publicly and simultaneously, due to the conditions that were established for lifting the state of emergency and granting amnesty in Nicaragua. These commitments are directly related, not because of what Honduras or any particular Central American country says, but because this is what the five Central American presidents agreed upon.

[Reporter] (?Do you know of any) countries that have not fulfilled the agreement on simultaneity?

[Hernandez] Nicaragua has not fulfilled the agreement because this accord has established conditions for issuing an amnesty and for suspending the state of emergency. According to the reports we received yesterday from Nicaraguan political parties, labor unions, and private businessmen, there is a direct and close relationship between Nicaragua's pacification and democratization, and the fulfillment of political agreements that are essential for the country's pacification.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] countries have fulfilled the agreement on simultaneity?

[Hernandez] Honduras has been fulfilling its commitments but, naturally, the spirit [of the Esquipulas agreement] calls for reciprocity. As soon as conditions are established so that another country has to do something first for Nicaragua to do its part, the balance of benefits [prestaciones] and counterbenefits that should exist in any negotiations is disrupted. [end recording]

When the Honduran representative was asked if his country has already fulfilled the agreement to remove all mercenary bases from its territory, Hernandez avoided answering the question. He stated that his country is willing to fulfill the agreements within the concept of simultaneity.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] At what stage of simultaneity will Honduras fulfill the agreement to expel the Somozist mercenaries and dismantle their Honduran bases?

[Hernandez] The Honduran Government is committed to fulfilling each and every point of the Esquipulas agreement, as long as the principles of simultaneity and reciprocity are fulfilled.

[Reporter] Sir, are the counterrevolutionaries currently in Honduras or not?

[Hernandez] The Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries who are fighting in Nicaraguan territory and who fight in Nicaragua, enter and leave Honduran territory because of the internal armed conflict that Nicaragua is experiencing. The Honduran Government in this regard is one of the governments most interested in resolving conflict, not only in Nicaragua but also in El Salvador, and to a lesser degree in Guatemala. As a centrally located country, we suffer the consequences of internal conflicts in neighboring countries, not only due to the insurgents who can cross the border, but also due to the thousands of refugees and political exiles who have entered Honduras. [end recording]

Deputy Minister Praises Visit

PA072343 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera said, upon receiving the visit of the CIVS to Nicaragua, that the visit will allow this body to make a balanced report.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Speaking for Radio Sandino, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera will summarize the CIVS' visit to Nicaragua.

[Talavera] The CIVS has concluded its visit to Nicaragua. It held almost 20 hours of meetings with a variety of our country's sectors without restrictions. I believe this will allow the commission to prepare a balanced report that will include the many different outlooks on the crisis in Nicaragua and Central America. As a government we had an opportunity to do so through the reports made by Commanders Carlos Nunez and Luis Carrion, who reported all of the aspects of the Nicaraguan Government's fulfillment of the commitments made on 7 August in Guatemala. I also believe the fact the commission could meet at the [name indistinct] hospital was very significant, because the commission members could observe how our children have been the victims of terrorist attacks organized and directed by the U.S. Administration.

I believe this visit should be repeated. In regard to the use of territories [by insurgent groups] the commission did not even touch on a number of complaints documented by the Nicaraguan Government, which would require additional visits by the CIVS to the region. We have reiterated our willingness to open all of our civilian and military installations to the CIVS so it can confirm Nicaragua's willingness and especially its commitment to adhere to the agreement's spirit and letter. Obviously, Nicaragua will open its borders and its installations when the other Central American countries express a willingness to do the same.

[Reporter] Has Nicaragua made any other contribution apart from the notes that were issued regarding the government's knowledge of the situation in the country?

[Talavera] The Nicaraguan Government issued a report on 4 January on the actions Nicaragua carried out during the past month, and in this report we included a summary of the national dialogue. We gave the CIVS a record of the dialogue so there would be proof as to what our government's position is, and to reject the stubbornness with which the political parties have handled the issue of the constitutional reforms, which the government delegation offered to negotiate. The government did not reject the issue as the 14 political parties have insinuated. [end recording]

Referring to Honduras, the deputy foreign minister said that country has been using unfounded arguments to evade its commitment to the Guatemala peace agreement, especially the commitment to eliminate the Somozist mercenary camp in its territory.

[Begin recording] [Talavera] The Honduran Government has used various unfounded arguments to avoid having the CIVS visit its territory without the government's previous knowledge. They are basing the inspection of their territory on unfounded arguments. They are conditioning the inspection of their territory on the fulfillment of commitments our people agree with and our government has always stressed. Commitments that involve simultaneity. The Nicaraguan Government is going to decree its amnesty, or rather it is going to implement the amnesty it has decreed, when the CIVS indicates that the other governments have fulfilled the agreement. Honduras has twisted this argument without any basis.

[Reporter] The Honduran Government has proposed the formation of an international border control commission. What is your opinion of this?

[Talavera] We believe it is important to guarantee stable instruments to prevent a repetition of the recent level of commitment. [sentence as heard] I hope an agreement will come out of Esquipulas II; I hope the Honduran Government will prohibit the use of its territory in the manner it has been used over the past few years, and that a border mechanism unanimously agreed upon will guarantee future border security.

[Reporter] What is your view of the proposal?

[Talavera] I heard of this proposal through the Honduran foreign minister's speech to the OAS General Assembly. So far it has ben a rhetorical proposal. What Honduras must first do is expel the contra leaders, close the bases and installations the United States has placed at the counterrevolution's disposal, and then discuss this proposal. A few days after the proposal was made, Nicaragua answered the Honduran Government in writing, accepting this mechanism. [end recording]

De Soto Terms Visit 'Fruitful'

PA081533 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Question-answer session with CIVS spokesman Alvaro De Soto during meeting with directors of communications media—recorded]

[Text] [De Soto] I am not going to give you my personal impressions because that would be anticipating the CIVS's report to the presidents. I can say we have held various useful meetings and have obtained information to complement data already available to us.

Of course it was not possible to cover all the territory we would have liked in the short time we had. I believe, however, we have managed to cover an ample spectrum of opinion in many areas.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[De Soto] I have no idea as to why she was unable to come. Unfortunately, we cannot wait any longer because we are expected in Guatemala, where we have appointments.

[Reporter] Did you receive any type of written communication from LA PRENSA newspaper?

[De Soto] No.

[Reporter] How would you rate the meetings held in Nicaragua?

[De Soto] All I can say is we have received ample information, and there has been a fruitful dialogue with representatives of a wide gamut of public opinion.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[De Soto] The question we posed was simply whether the Guatemala (agreements) were being complied with in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] President Ortega said last night that your commission had not made in situ inspections in Nicaragua because Nicaragua was the only country willing to allow them.

[De Soto] You are asking me to advance information to you about a confidential aspect of the technical missions that the United Nation and the OAS have carried out in the Central American countries concerning the in situ inspections and security aspects of the Agreement.

Unfortunately I cannot disclose the contents of these reports.

[Reporter] Mr De Soto, do you feel that in your meetings with the various sectors in the rest of the Central American countries, you will be able to learn the truth, as you have done here in Nicaragua?

[De Soto] I do not doubt that we will get the same type of cooperation.

Obando y Bravo Calls for Broader Amnesty

PA072104 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] During the meeting of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference with the CIVS, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo emphasized the need to grant a broader amnesty that would include former Somozist Guards not involved in major crimes against the people.

As for his role in the National Reconciliation Commission, Obando y Bravo stated that he would have to withdraw from that commission if the Episcopal Conference effectively decides that the commission is not functional. He would also withdraw from his role as mediator in an eventual cease-fire agreement if it is felt that the necessary flexibility and political commitment are not present.

Contras Announce Meeting With Obando y Bravo

PA080109 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) today announced that it will meet tomorrow, Friday, in Guatemala City with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, mediator between the contras and the Nicaraguan Government.

Alfredo Cesar, one of the six directors of the RN, said this meeting between the contra leaders and the cardinal is to discuss the failure of the two previous rounds of talks with Managua officials. These were held in the Dominican Republic at the end of last year.

In those two attempted rounds of talks, the delegations were led by Jaime Morales Carazo for the contras, and Victor Hugo Tinoco for the Nicaraguan Government.

At those meetings, the parties did not meet face-to-face, as requested by the RN, the Reagan administration, and the cardinal himself. Instead, Obando y Bravo mediated between them.

The Nicaraguan Government has insisted that it will not talk directly with the contras, since it considers them to be an instrument of U.S. policy in Central America. However, the Nicaraguan Government has expressed a desire to negotiate with the Reagan administration.

Cesar accused President Daniel Ortega of being "directly responsible for the noncompliance" with the peace plan that the presidents of the region signed in Guatemala on 7 August.

Some of the basic points of the agreement are a cease-fire, a suspension of aid from outside the region for Central American rebel forces, democratization, the non-use of territory to attack other states, and national reconciliation.

The Central American presidents will meet in San Jose on 15 January to evaluate, 5 months after signing the agreement, compliance with the regional peace agreement. They will also discuss the possibility of establishing new deadlines.

Cardinal Cancels Visit

PA0080320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0215 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Managua, 7 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo today canceled his trip to Guatemala, where he was scheduled to meet with the RN. This was today reported by the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA. The newspaper also stated that the head of the [Nicaraguan] Catholic Church decided to suspend his trip to that Central American country at the request of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo. Obando y Bravo had spoken on the telephone with Cerezo.

According to the newspaper, the Guatemalan president told the cardinal that he could not officially invite him to his country to meet with the counterrevolutionary leaders.

However, according to the LA PRENSA report, President Cerezo told Cardinal Obando y Bravo that he could receive him on a "private visit." Since Guatemala is a "democratic country, anyone can come here and hold talks with whomever he wishes," Cerezo noted.

Obando y Bravo is the mediator between the Sandinists and the "contras." He stated that the RN has insistently asked to meet with him in Guatemala before 15 January.

According to the source, the Guatemalan president suggested that a meeting between Obando y Bravo and the "contras was inadvisable at this time. Cerezo also urged the cardinal to postpone the meeting until the Central American presidents held their "summit" on 15 January.

The presidents of the region will meet in Costa Rica on that date to listen to the assesment given by the CIVS. The CIVS will submit its report to the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and the representatives of the United Nations and the OAS following its tour of the region.

According to the newspaper, Obando y Bravo also received a telephone call from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega informing him that his trip to Guatemala "was inadvisable at this moment" and violated the "Esquipulas II agreement.

LA PRENSA added that President Ortega told Cardinal Obando y Bravo that he had also spoken to Guatemalan President Cerezo. Ortega said that Cerezo agreed with him.

The newspaper stated that Cerezo considered Obando y Bravo's trip to be "counterproductive."

Despite this, Alfredo Cesar, one of the six RN leaders, this afternoon commented that the "contras" and the prelate will discuss the failure of the two rounds of indirect talks that were held between the anti-Sandinists and Managua officials in Santo Domingo at the end of 1987.

Attack on Colombian Fishing Fleet Reported

PA0090129 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0058 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Official sources in Bogota have reported that a Sandinist patrol boat attacked a Colombian fishing fleet near Bluefields Island [as heard]. The four Colombian vessels were heading for that island from the Colombian island of San Andres. The latter is located off of the Nicaraguan coast.

The official report issued in Bogota states that the Nicaraguan patrol boat took the Colombian fleet by surprise while the latter was heading to Bluefields Island to purchase seafood.

One person was injured and three are missing as a result of the incident. The Colombian fleet did not obey the order of the Sandinist patrol boat to halt.

Defense Ministry Reports Recent Clashes

PA0090037 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today that 10 contras were killed in the past 3 days. These are the most important actions:

1. Fighting occurred at Loma La Tigra, southeast of Quilchapa, Chontales Department, on 3 January. Two mercenaries were killed. The Army recovered an AK rifle, an RPK machinegun, a Claymore mine, three knapsacks, two RPG-7 grenades, and two RPK magazines.

2. A clash took place 4 January at Buenaventura, northeast of Nueva Guinea, in the Southern Atlantic autonomous region. Three contras were killed. The Army seized two AK rifles. Another action occurred the same day at La Camaleona, northeast of San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega Department, where two mercenaries were killed. During a clash on 5 January, at El Tablazal, northeast of Villa Sandino, Chontales Department, one mercenary was killed and one was taken prisoner. The same day, EPS troops seized a cache at Montanas de Wamblan, northeast of San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega Depatment. The cache contained 1,200 rounds of FAL ammunition and 4,480 rounds of AK ammunition.

Terrorist actions against civilians and economic targets:

On 3 January, mercenaries kidnapped three civilians at El Balsamo, northeast of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department. On 4 January, the rebels blew up a electric tower at

El Almendro, west of Somotillo, Chinandega Department. The same day, they blew up another electric tower at Rancho Alegre, east of (?Muwan), Chontales Department. That same day they harassed San Martin, north of Nueva Guinea, Southern Atlantic region, wounding a civilian. They raided El Espabel, east of La Gateada, Chontales Department. There were no casualties.

Also, the enemy ambushed three civilians at Los Zanjones, southwest of Cinco Pinos, Chinandega Department, killing one and wounding another. The dead civilians's name is Bismarck Mondragon. The wounded man's name is Rene Mondragon. The same day, the rebels simultaneously attacked the El Comejen and El Portillo cooperatives, northwest and northeast of Matiguas, respectively, Matagalpa Department, killing four civilians and wounding two. Two mercenaries were killed.

Managua, 6 January 1988.

Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate.

Panama

Noriega Refutes Reports by U.S. Newspapers

PA100202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0130 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jan (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], affirmed that he will never be a "pawn of the United States" and will not "compromise national sovereignty," in response to recent charges made against him in U.S. newspapers.

Noriega, who left unexpectedly today for the Dominican Republic on a "private" visit, termed the press reports part of a campaign of "psychological information orchestrated against the Republic of Panama," according to a communique the FDP issued this afternoon.

The U.S. newspapers THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON TIMES, and THE MIAMI HERALD have made strong charges in the past few weeks against the Panamanian officer, whose resignation is demanded by the domestic opposition grouped in the National Civic Crusade.

These publications "have such negative purposes that they are an insult to the intelligence of Panamanians and Latin Americans," Noriega stressed.

Richard L. Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, visited Panama this week, reportedly to pressure Noriega [words indistinct] "to hold free elections and democratic reforms."

In referring to the "secret visit" of Armitage, Noriega said the "colonialists, the reactionaries, and the ultraconservatives know and are aware of the names, addresses, and post office box numbers of those that they can give orders to." He added that "I am not a pawn of the United States, and this commander will never compromise national sovereignty."

Noriega's visit to the Dominican Republic prompted diverse rumors of his resignation from his post. This was denied by the FDP General Staff, which explained that the commanding officer will resume his duties on Monday the 11th.

Reportage on Noriega Visit to Santo Domingo

Said To Depart 'Hurriedly'

PA092336 Paris AFP in Spanish 2255 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 9 Jan (AFP)—Bogota's Radio Caracol has reported that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, left the country today for Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, while accompanied by his family.

During a news bulletin aired at 2215 GMT, the station said: "Panama's strongman, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, hurriedly left his country this afternoon." It added that "he is accompanied by his family."

Newsman Julio Sanchez, Radio Caracol's correspondent in Miami, expanded on the report. He confirmed that Noriega and his family had flown to the Dominican Republic and had arrived in Santo Domingo.

"It has not been confirmed that Noriega resigned," Sanchez explained. However, he noted that the trip by the Panamanian officer may come as a result of the talks he held with a top U.S. official.

This official was apparently Richard Armitage, assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. Armitage came on a "secret mission" to Panama last week.

Caracol said that Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle is in Miami undergoing a "medical checkup."

FDP Issues Communique

PA100014 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2352 GMT 9 Jan 88

["Official communique" of the FDP; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] The commander in chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, left the country on a private trip to the Dominican Republic, where he will remain over the weekend. Gen Noriega will then return on Monday to resume his official duties.

FDP Chief of Staff Quoted

PA100155 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0047 GMT 10 Jan 88

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Colonel Marco Justines, chief of the FDP General Staff, by an unidentified station reporter; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Colonel Justines, greetings from Televisora Nacional.

[Justines] Good evening.

[Reporter] In view of the many calls being received by this station and the prevailing confusion, we are calling you to speak with you and see if you will explain to us, in your capacity as the highest-ranking officer at this moment in charge of the FDP... [changes thought] if you can expand in some way on the communique the FDP General Staff issued this afternoon? What comment would you care to make, Col Justines?

[Justines] For the citizens' information, it is true that General Noriega has left for the Dominican Republic. All Panamanians know that the daughter of our commander is married to a Dominican young man. Yesterday, our commander was in Tonosi, in the country's interior, on a working tour. He was accompanied by government officials, including [Education] Minister Solis Palma. There was much enthusiasm in the community.

Taking advantage of the weekend holiday on the occasion of Martyr's Day and tomorrow, Sunday, he made this family trip, which had been planned, and is currently in the Dominican Republic.

[Reporter] Col Justines, what do you think is the cause of this wave of rumors, of this wave of confusion now involving the Panamanian community all day today, Saturday, 9 January?

[Justines] In my opinion, due to the permanent triumphalism characterizing it, the Panamanian opposition has seized on three special circumstances: one, the statements by the president of the Republic, who said through Minister Cardenas that he had misinterpreted, as Panamanian citizens know. Add to this the talks the commander held with Armitage, the U.S. assistant secretary of defense, which were also distorted by the State Department's agency [as heard], in view of the fact that Mr Armitage has not returned to the United States. Instead, we understand he is in Afghanistan. This is the second cause. Then there is the commander's trip itself. These three circumstances have become a breeding ground for the opposition to try to take some type of advantage.

However, we find the silence of U.S. Ambassador Davis very strange. He was present at the meeting Gen Noriega held with Mr Armitage. He was present there and participated in a conversation, in a productive, friendly, and respectful dialogue. Knowing that sources from the State Department, I think from the Congress, as THE MIAMI HERALD said in today's issue...[changes thought] he has distorted this meeting with his silence. He has also, with his silence, contributed, as usual, to spirits...[changes thought] helped the opposition take advantage of this situation and to heat up the situation a bit.

[Reporter] Where are you at this moment? What is the situation in the Armed Forces at this moment?

[Justines] Well, all of us are here in the capital enjoying this holiday, and all members of the General Staff are...[changes thought] except those who are on duty or on routine business of the institution [words indistinct].

[Reporter] A last question, Col Justines. When will Gen Noriega return to his office?

[Justines] Logically, the commander will be at his office early Monday. He may travel tomorrow or early on Monday. So, there is no problem. It would also be good to make it clear that throughout his institutional career, Gen Noriega has never given sign of capitulating or fleeing. So, we ask the responsible citizens, the friends of our institution, the Panamanian people, to keep still. This is nothing but a part of the permanent triumphalism that I mentioned at the start of this interview.

Noriega Resignation Denied

PA100112 Paris AFP in Spanish 0046 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 9 Jan (AFP)—The FDP General Staff confirmed today that General Manuel Antonio Noriega left the country this morning for the Dominican Republic, but denied that he has resigned from his post as commander of the FDP.

The FDP explained in a communique that the trip by Noriega—whose resignation has been demanded for 7 months by the Panamanian opposition and the U.S. Administration—is in the Dominican Republic on a family visit. [passage omitted]

Major Edgardo Lopez, chief of public relations for the FDP, said that Noriega traveled to the Dominican Republic to visit his daughter Sandra, who is married to a Dominican.

Nonetheless, the unexpected departure of Noriega from the country sparked diverse and persistent rumors that he had resigned from his post. [passage omitted]

The FDP press office this afternoon distributed a statement by Gen Noriega in which he noted that "I am not a pawn of the United States. This commander will never compromise national sovereignty."

Noriega's statement responds to articles by several influential U.S. newspapers that President Eric Delvalle—who is currently in the United States—"is seeking a dignified way out" for Noriega as military commander.

The news of Noriega's departure from Panama caused hundreds of opposition members to take to the streets, waving their handkerchiefs and honking their car horns to celebrate the event.

Opposition Celebrates

PA092330 Paris AFP in Spanish 2259 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jan (AFP)—The possible departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the FDP, to the Dominican Republic was celebrated today by more than 100 members of the opposition who gathered along 50th Street in the capital.

There has been a persistent rumor today that Noriega and his family left the country for Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, aboard a private flight. This has not been officially confirmed.

On the contrary, a ranking government source told AFP that the report was false and that Noriega is instead outside the capital in an interior province.

Members of the opposition—grouped in the National Civic Crusade, which has been demanding that Noriega step down as commander of the FDP since mid-1987—this afternoon began to celebrate the report. They gathered along 50th Street and in the La Cresta neighborhood of the Panamanian capital.

It was learned this week that the U.S. Government sent Richard L. Armitage, a ranking Pentagon official, to Panama on a secret mission to pressure Noriega to resign and to allow free elections in this country.

The United States, according to observers, has been strongly pressuring Gen Noriega and the Panamanian Government for more than 10 months, demanding a democratic opening in this country.

Noriega Returns 'Unexpectedly'

PA101808 Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Jan (AFP)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the FDP, returned to his country early today as unexpectedly as he arrived in Santo Domingo yesterday afternoon.

The return of Panama's strongman was confirmed to AFP by a reliable diplomatic source who asked not to be identified and who stressed that "he [Noriega] is already in Panama."

An attempt to confirm this information through Luis Carlos Sarak, the Panamanian ambassador to the Dominican Republic, was frustrated when Sarak's home servant told AFP that the diplomat "went to bed at 0600 this morning and is still sleeping."

Balaguer Confirms Return

PA102010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1932 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 10 Jan (AFP)—This afternoon, Joaquin Balaguer, president of the Dominican Republic, officially confirmed that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the FDP, returned to his country "at 0500 today."

Balaguer reported this during one of his usual weekend trips to the rural areas, in response to questions from reporters concerning the visit by Panama's strongman.

The dialogue between the president and the reporters was shown live by the state television channel.

Committee Calls for 9 Jan March, Demonstration

PA081444 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1326 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Communique issued by the Committee for the Commemoration of 9 January; date and place of issue not given—read by Raul Perez]

[Text] To the Panamanian people:

On 9 January, 24 years ago, the Panamanian people and students staged one of the most heroic and revolutionary actions in our struggle for national liberation. The whole world, as well as U.S. imperialism, felt the fury of the people in the face of the humiliating violations perpetrated by the Zonians against our sacred national symbols in our own territory. This is the territory that had been taken over and occupied by the invading Yankee army.

The 9 January 1964 uprising was not only a reaction prompted by the constant demonstrations of arrogance on the part of Yankee imperialism against our homeland; it was also the expression of a generation of Panamanians with high patriotic ideals and feelings inherited from the struggle that started from the very moment that the subjugated republic was founded by the local bourgeoisie and U.S. interests.

Today, as they were 24 years ago, the causes that prompted that patriotic incident are still alive. The Torrijos-Carter Treaties do not represent all the hopes of the Panamanian people. We must strengthen the unity and mobilization of the people to put an end to the colonization of the country, to dismantle the U.S. Southern Command, to nationalize the canal so that it will serve our development, to rescue our natural resources—

which are currently in the hands of transnational enterprises, to reorganize our system of trade with imperialism, to abolish the payment of the foreign debt, and to defeat the economic policy based on IMF demands that is being implemented by the government of President Delvalle and supported by the Defense Forces.

Here is where all the anti-imperialist and patriotic people must unite in a single front to serve the people, not under a pro-imperialist government. Let us march together in the planning and organization of a popular organization that will guarantee the dream of the hundreds of patriots who participated in the 9 January 1964 event.

We invite the Panamanian people to be present at the National Institute at 1000 tomorrow. From there we will walk to Amador Cemetery, and then meet and picket in front of the U.S. Southern Command.

Long live the 9 January martyrs!

Yankee troops out of Panama and Central America!

No to the Yankee military pact!

Stop all payment of the foreign debt!

The anti-imperialist popular unity honors the martyrs!

Committee for the Commemoration of 9 January

National Federation of Panamanian Workers

National Confederation of Peasant Settlements

National Federation of Associations and Organizations of Public Employees

Association of Panama University Employees

Association of Panama University Professors

People's Revolutionary Youth

People's Party

Guaykucho

Center of Technological University Students

"Looking for America" Christian Youth

To Struggle Movement [Movimiento a Luchar]

Solidarity Coordinating Board

Kuna Youth Movement

Guaymi Liberation Front

University Reform Front

Panamanian Women's National Union

Worker's Socialist Party

Mayor Confirms March Legal

PA072134 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Faced with the announcement by some trade union and civic organizations that they intend to carry out meetings and demonstrations, Panama City Mayor Jilma Noriega de Jurado gave the following explanation when asked about the permits to hold these meetings:

[Begin recording] According to the Constitution, there is no need for the mayor's office to grant a permit for holding demonstrations. Those persons who wish to give us advanced notice—for example, CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers] sent us advanced notice. In these cases, I take note and send the traffic police a copy for security reasons—that is all. No permit is required for this. If it were believed that there might be, or if there was indeed public unrest, the demonstration could then be forbidden, as was done last time by the president. So far, there seems no reason for CONATO not to march, which I understand will take place be tomorrow. CONATO gave the required warning in advance, so we are already informed. That is all that is required according to the Constitution. [end recording]

Argentina

U.S. Congressional Delegation Discusses Debt

PY071159 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Jan (NA)—Deputies from different political blocs today told a group of U.S. congressmen visiting the Argentine Congress that the country might decide to pay only 50 percent of the interest on the foreign debt because some creditor banks "are selling notes on the Argentine debt" at 50 percent of face value.

This possibility was discussed at a meeting attended by UCR Deputies Jaroslavsky, Jesus Rodriguez, Hugo Socchi, and Guulermo Tello Rosas; Peronist Deputy Oscar Fappiano; UCD [Democratic Centrist Union] Deputy Hector Siracusano; and nearly 30 members of the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. delegation included the chairmen of the House banking and justice committees.

Jaroslavsky, who is the leader of the UCR bloc, said the group discussed "the issue of the foreign debt almost exclusively." The majority of the U.S. representatives are from New York, Illinois, and New Jersey.

Jaroslavsky said the U.S. congressional leaders showed "understanding with regard to the Argentine Government's efforts to balance the budget and reduce the deficit."

The Argentine delegation pointed out that their efforts "will not be enough as long as we cannot participate in world trade with justice, as long as we are discriminated against, and as long as we are attacked with a policy of subsidies," which push our products out of the market.

Officials Seek Accord With U.S., Creditors

PY070230 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 15

[Text] Economy Ministry officials will submit a political proposal to foreign creditors and to the U.S. Administration to smooth out financial relations, because they are certain that the IMF will not approve the unfulfilled goals established in the "stand-by" [preceding word in English] agreement.

This proposal is being prepared at the top levels of the government and several meetings were held yesterday at the Finance Ministry, where there is concern regarding the loss of control over economic variables, as well as regarding the generalized skepticism regarding the fulfillment of the targets set for January.

The idea is to ask the Reagan administration for an agreement similar to that signed by the United States and bankers with the Mexican Government.

Reportedly, this proposal basically seeks to exert political pressure on creditors, because it surely will not be well received by international financial circles because of the Central Bank's low level of foreign reserves.

Mexico has some $15 billion in reserves that allows it to make the $2-billion disbursement called for in the agreement, while the Argentine Central Bank's freely disposable reserves barely reach $600 million.

Argentine foreign reserves have dropped heavily in the last few months. This led the government to undertake strong, unsuccessful devaluations during the last quarter of the year.

The two devaluations announced in the last couple of weeks seem intended to convince exporters to conclude deals worth some $400 million.

The idea is to submit to Washington a request to begin political negotiations on the economic conditions of the program prepared by IMF officials.

The auditing delegation is about to arrive in the country (they will probably arrive today) and these technicians will probably object to the current economic program because of the strong fiscal imbalance brought about by the Finance Secretariat. They will in all likelihood also object to the unfulfillment of foreign and monetary goals.

On Monday night, and all day yesterday, the economic team held continuous meetings to establish some guidelines to be discussed this weekend when Economy Minister Sourrouille returns to the country.

Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea reportedly will leave for Washington to put forth the political proposal seeking to overcome the difficulties the IMF will soon impose. Some economic decision to reverse the current loss of control of the economy will also be included in this strategy.

These measures would be intended to correct the targets set by Under Secretary Roberto Frenkel, targets which Economy Ministry officials doubted could be achieved from the outset. This economist, who had serious confrontations with the Labor Ministry, did not have his contract as adviser to the Buenos Aires Provincial Bank renewed.

Deliberations will continue throughout next week, awaiting the results of the surveys that some U.S. officials are conducting.

Depending on these surveys, Machinea's trip to Washington, initially scheduled for mid-January, could be postponed until the beginning of February.

Army Situation, Reports of Unrest Discussed

Juanarena, Rico Cited

PY062029 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (NA)—Defense Minister Horacio Juanarena and Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico have different opinions on the internal situation of the Army. Juanarena has said that "there is no unrest" in the Army, while Lt Col Rico claims that the situation "is serious."

In a detailed five-page report, the magazine SOMOS says that "Rico's friends who are with him in a country house" said that "here, the only protection we [words indistinct] the officer who headed the Holy Week event [words indistinct] about his house arrest."

Rico said: "Until recently I faced more restrictions than those imposed on Mario Firmenich [founder and leader of the Montoneros terrorist group]. Now it is different. No one took the time to let me know anything. I do not know whether officially I am a soldier or a civilian. In addition to that, I do not know anything about the situation regarding my trial."

According to SOMOS, Rico remains in the Bella Vista country house, "wearing his regular uniform." He still wears it because, he says, "I am a soldier."

Rico added: "I am a soldier and I cannot make statements that harm the Army. All my friends know what I think of the current situation, but I must not make any statements."

SOMOS says that "those who think the Bella Vista country house has become a visiting site for officers who agree with the Dignidad Army uprisal are wrong. Only one Buenos Aires police car guards the entrance."

Lt Col Rico said that the current situation in the Army "is serious" and that "the problem" not only "involves salaries and the budget" but "the mental and spiritual unrest of the soldiers due to the fact that their professional dignity is not recognized and there is no way for them to feel job satisfaction."

The "friends" who make up the group that accompany Lt Col Rico commented to SOMOS that "the state of indiscipline is generalized." They also criticized Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi for "not knowing how to take advantage of the political opportunity offered by the events" of Holy Week.

SOMOS also reported that former Major Ernesto Barreiro, who unleashed the Holy Week events when he secluded himself in the 14th Airborne Regiment in Cordoba in order not to testify in court, is also one of the men staying with Rico.

Barreiro said: "I am here because I am Rico's personal friend and I have a commitment to the real Army, not the Army of shining brass and radiograms."

Asked about the incident in which First Lieutenant Alejandro Maguire pointed his pistol at three NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reporters, SOMOS says that "the rebel officers almost justified the event."

SOMOS also reported that "Rico's friends" said the event "was a great indiscretion. That officer demostrated that the human factor cannot be predicted, that there is a lot of tension, that support for Rico exists, and that some officers are tired. [Words indistinct] considered an attack on the media."

Defense Minister Horacio Juanarena told SOMOS that "there is no unrest in the Army" and that "it would not be surprising if Lt Col Rico is in some way trying to agitate the public."

He added: "From my point of view there is tranquillity" [words indistinct] admitted that "there are problems, such as those related to budget cuts in the Armed Forces."

He said that "there is a great deal of speculation that the Army is divided into two factions. There may be people who disagree with some measures [words indistinct].

Juanarena also confirmed that his ministry decided to sell 2,000 hectares of the Air Force [words indistinct] as part of the Armed Forces modernization process.

Caridi Resignation Denied

PY071510 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpts] When Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe was asked about newspaper commentaries on the military situation today, he said the chain of command has been reestablished, and it is always difficult to obtain 100 percent efficiency. He added that the refusal by a small number of officers to respect the chain of command does not mean it has not been reestablished.

Regarding the situation of Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi, Alconada Sempe said the goverment thinks he is in complete control, and categorically denied that he might be removed from his post.

Alconada Sempe also recalled that with the exception of the incident involving First Lieutenant Maguire, there have been no new acts of indiscipline in the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Deputy Maria Julia de Alsogaray said the Army is going through a situation of general anxiety. Alsogaray, the second vice president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, said this state of anxiety produces regrettable incidents like the one a few days ago, when an

officer pulled a gun on a journalist. Such acts greatly hurt the image of the institution. Alsogaray said the act of pulling a gun on someone who is not an enemy to scare him is not normal behavior on the part of a member of the Armed Forces. This only demonstrates the present state of anxiety among officers and is an example of an uncontrolled reaction.

Alsogaray said, nevertheless, that there will not be a coup, even though he acknowledged there are people who speculate about that possibility.

More on Secretary's Remarks

PY080100 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jan 88 p 11

[Excerpt] [NA-DYN]—The Army High Command yesterday officially denied a press report according to which two internal Army telegrams were issued by supporters of Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico making grave accusations against Army Chief-of-Staff Jose Caridi.

Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe, in turn, said that the telegrams were "not authentic" but admitted that "Army discipline is not exactly what military theory indicates," adding that "things will still happen in Argentina that many won't like."

Simultaneously, "well-informed sources" quoted by the daily CLARIN said that "important changes" in Army leadership could shortly result from the change in Rico's legal situation, namely, the change of his preventive imprisonment to house arrest.

A communique signed by Army press secretary Colonel Julio Oura said that "at no time has the Army communications network been used to transmit the mentioned messages, or any others of the kind."

The alleged telegrams were published by the financial daily AMBITO FINANCIERO yesterday. They questioned the "moral authority" of General Caridi and accused him of illegitimately applying "moral duress" against the leader of the Holy Week rebellion in order to obtain his voluntary retirement in exchange for a lighter sentence.

They also claimed that Rico left his place of detention at Campo de Mayo, without waiting for the resolution informing him of his house arrest, with the support of colleagues and the backing of units of the force. They added that "this situation was officially confirmed hours later."

"The Argentine Army regrets that certain media reproduce distored reports that bring unrest and negatively affect the institution," said the Army communique.

According to the daily's interpretation, "Caridi is struggling desperately to abide by the government's orders against (the wishes of) Rico and his men."

CLARIN, in turn, claims that the government is studying the possibility of replacements in the Army to work out differences between the force's leadership and medium ranking-officers "who have held a critical outlook since last April." [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Negotiations Between Government, COB Begin

PY080259 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Negotiations between the government and the COB began this afternoon, as scheduled. During the meeting, seven commission were established and will start working tomorrow according to different schedules. The first commission is made up of five ministers who represent the government and five COB leaders.

According to the ministers and labor leaders who attended the meeting, the negotiations were cordial and it is hoped they will succeed.

Central Bank To Issue Savings Certificates

PY081743 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Central Bank Vice President Jaime Escobar yesterday said that the bank has been authorized to issue fixed-deposit cetificates, in accordance with the Board of Directors Resolution No 29/87. The bank will accept deposits in local currency, which will maintain its value, and deposits in foreign currencies, up to a ceiling of $50 million. The terms of the deposits will vary.

Escobar said it is hoped the Central Bank certificates will attract resources from the pool of internal savings for reinvestment into the productive sector.

Escobar added that the Central Bank has entered the open market by offering certificates, with a guarantee by the state, which will pay interest in national and foreign currencies to individuals and institutions.

The bank has formulated regulations for the issuance of the certificates stressing that the Bolivian Central Bank and the Bolivian state will guarantee depositors the return of their money.

Escobar said depositors seeking larger profits usually face greater risks because the institutions accepting their funds are sometimes unable to pay the promised higher interest payments.

Escobar added: "In this case, the guarantee by the Bolivian state and the Bolivian Central Bank will ensure the return of the deposits on the established dates."

Escobar said that the bank will pay slightly lower interest rates than present interest rates on local financial markets. Certificates will be payable to the bearer or registered in the depositor's name and will mature at 30, 90, 180, and 360 days.

Escobar concluded by saying that beginning today the certificates, (CEDES), will be sold on the stock market in accordance with the approved regulations.

Central Bank General Manager Fernando Kempf said that the public should understand the great importance of these certificates. They can be exchanged on the stock market, they can be endorsed or issued in the depositor's name, that is, in the name of individuals or corporations, or made payable to the bearer.

Kempf explained that interest rates for the "CEDES" will be established on a daily basis utilizing the Bolsin mechanism through which the Central Bank currently conducts its foreign exchange operations.

Interest rates for deposits in local currency will be as follows: 22.5 percent per annum on 30-day deposits; 23 percent on 90-day deposits; 23.5 percent on 180-day deposits; and 24 percent on 360-day deposits.

Interest rates for deposits in dollars will be as follows: 11 percent per annum on 30-day deposits; 11.5 percent on 90-day deposits; 12 percent on 180-day deposits; and 12.5 percent on 360-day deposits.

Kempf said that depositors will also choose the terms of their interest payments which may be paid every month, every 2 months, or at any time specified by the depositors.

Kempf said that the CEDES will be renewed on request.

Minister Criticizes Andean Pact Integration

PY071351 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] According to former Integration Minister Fernando Caceres, the integration of the Andean Pact nations is not as good as it should be because countries with special interests prevent the rapid implementation of programs.

Caceres told Panamericana that the implementation of several already approved protocols and documents has been delayed pending the active participation of members who should put aside their particular interests and promote real and effective integration.

Brazil

PMDB 'Severance' Document With Sarney Signed

PY100215 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2307 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Jan (TELAM)—At the end of a 4-hour meeting, nearly 110 PMDB senators and members of the Constituent Assembly today signed a document of "severance" [documento de ruptura] with the government of President Jose Sarney.

At the same time, the "historic" faction of the PMDB proposed calling direct presidential elections 90 days after the promulgation of the new Brazilian constitution, which is currently being drawn up by the Constituent Assembly in Brasilia.

The most vigorous speech was that of Senator Mario Covas, PMDB leader in the Constituent Assembly. Covas lashed out at PMDB conservative sectors and stated that a call for presidential elections is urgent, because the Brazilian people cannot wait any longer.

Covas demanded that the candidate of the PMDB be committed to the party's aspirations for renewal.

The PMDB document criticizes the new financial and economic policy of the government (of Mailson da Nobrega, the new finance minister) as far as rapprochement and negotiation with the IMF is concerned.

Former Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro, PMDB Senate leader Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former Parana Governor Jose Richa, former Finance Minister Luiz Bresser Pereira, sociologist Helio Jaguaribe, and Covas were among the members of the "historic" faction who attended the meeting.

However, outstanding "historics" such as the PMDB and Constituent Assembly President Ulysses Guimaraes, Sao Pablo Governor Orestes Quercia, and other governors did not attend the meeting.

The PMDB currently controls 17 ministries, 22 out of the 23 state governments, and more than 300 votes in the Constituent Assembly (which has 559 members).

According to analysts, the PMDB is "hydra-headed" and has several factions (central, central-rightist, and central-leftist).

Sarney Reportedly Preparing Cabinet Reshuffle

PY072151 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] President Jose Sarney has reportedly decided to reshuffle his cabinet within the next 15 days. According to Josias de Souza, secretary of this newspaper's Brasilia branch office, the names to be changed have not yet been

established, but current Planning Minister Anibal Teixeira is one of those to be changed. Current Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto will probably replace him. Communications Minister Antonio Carlos Magalhaes is mentioned as a sure candidate to replace Costa Couto.

Magalhaes stated: "The president wants to make his own government. Those who are with him will participate in his government, and those who are not will be changed."

This cabinet reshuffle is reportedly an attempt to form a minimum basis for congressional support of the government, through compensations at the ministerial cabinet.

Congressmen of the centrist group will be able to participate in the government. People close to President Sarney have stated that Teixeira's ouster is "inevitable." He would have left, regardless, in order to run in the 15 July race for mayor of Belo Horizonte.

Although Sarney has not yet decided to replace Teixeira with Costa Couto, this change has been considered a "working theory." In addition to Magalhaes, Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Prisco Vianna is another possible candidate to replace the Civilian Household chief. Both ministers have denied this possibility.

Central Bank Head Views Debt Negotiations

PY080221 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Central Bank President Fernando Milliet has said that there is a possibility of an understanding being reached between the creditor banks and Brazil. He will depart for the United States on 9 January to lead the Brazilian delegation that will deal with the foreign debt problem.

Fernao Bracher, former special adviser for foreign debt problems, believes that the Brazilian proposal for renegotiating the debt with the creditor banks will remain unchanged and continue to be the same as that begun by former Minister Bresser Pereira.

Bracher said the Brazilian proposal includes some new issues, such as converting part of the foreign debt into long-term bonds.

Today Minister Mailson da Nobrega held a meeting with Bracher, who, despite requests by the minister [not further identified], did not agree to remain in his post.

Central Bank President Fernando Milliet, who will begin carrying out duties as the coordinator of the negotiations with the creditor banks, said that conditions exist that may facilitate an understanding between the two parties. [recorded passage indistinct]

On Saturday Milliet will travel to the United States, where a new round of negotiations will start on 11 January.

Civilian Household Chief Cited

PY111430 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] An agreement between Brazil and the IMF must be in line with national interests. According to Civilian Household Chief Ronaldo Costa Couto, there is nothing to prevent Brazil from reaching an agreement with the IMF. The proposal the delegation, headed by Central Bank President Fernando Milliet, will present today to creditor banks in New York seeks to bring current negotiations into line with IMF policy.

[Begin Costa Couto recording] The IMF should not be seen as something evil. We are also among the founders of the IMF. The idea is to bring the principle of national interests into line with IMF policy, not to bow to the IMF as an institution. [end recording]

Costa Couto added that Brazil must solve its foreign debt problem so it can promote development and growth, because 1 milion new jobs have to be created every year to meet the demands of young Brazilians entering the labor market.

Reporting on Debt Negotiations Restricted

PY080241 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0217 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Jan (EFE)—The Brazilian Government today decided to restrict information on the strategy of the foreign debt renegotiations in order to prevent talks with creditors from being affected by advance publication in the press.

Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega stated that advance publication of the Brazilian proposal is like holding a news conference before a battle or, in a war situation, "telling the generals from the other side that we are on such and such a flank."

Central Bank President Fernando Milliet also justified the information ban and added that no foreign negotiations can be simultaneously negotiated with both the creditors and the press.

The minister and his team of foreign debt advisers met today to polish the final details of the Brazilian strategy that will be presented to the creditor banks on 11 January 1988, for a new medium-term agreement.

Later, the finance minister met with President Jose Sarney and concluded the Brazilian proposal for the 1988 and 1989 agreement.

Milliet Explains Restriction

PY081323 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Central Bank President Fernando Milliet will leave for the United States on Saturday. He believes an agreement on the Brazilian foreign debt must be reached in the shortest possible time.

The Brazilian Government will adopt practically the same foreign debt negotiation proposal that has been discussed with the creditor banks since the time Bresser Pereira was in the Finance Ministry. The objective is to reach an accord in the shortest possible time, at least at a level of [words indistinct].

After a meeting with Finance Minister Mailson Nobrega at Planalto Palace, Milliet said that no details of the negotiations will be released while the talks are under way.

[Begin recording] [Milliet] What we now want is to halt to some extent the discussion of the details in the press, because whenever we release the details we start a debate. I believe no negotiation of this type can be held simultaneously with the creditors and the press, at least as far as details are concerned, because it is obvious that in the negotiation strategy some points must be raised at the right moment, and we can harm our negotiations if we make everything public right from the beginning.

[Reporter] Do the Mexican debt negotiations [words indistinct] reflect on the Brazilian negotiations?

[Milliet] I do not think they reflect [words indistinct] directly on the Brazilian negotiations. However, I believe the possibilities that the U.S. Government has opened for negotiating the Mexican debt have clearly emphasized the fact that the position displayed by the Brazilian Government—particularly in the second half of 1987—is correct. [end recording]

Marcilio Marques Moreira, Brazilian ambassador to the United States, has said the agreement with the IMF will be consistent with the accord with the creditor banks. The Brazilian negotiators will seek to arrange the lowest possible spread. The only change in the proposal will be in the style of the negotiations. Summing up, we will [words indistinct].

Milliet and Central Bank foreign debt department chief Antonio de Paula Seixas are due to leave for the United States on Saturday. They will establish the limits within which the negotiations will be held [words indistinct] President Jose Sarney will be informed in order to establish new limits.

Chile

Ministry Takes Steps Against U.S. Decision

PY082142 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Jan 88

[By Antonio Cofre]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has begun to take steps in international organizations regarding the U.S. decision to exclude Chile from the Generalized System of Preferences. This was revealed in an official communique, which states that steps have been taken in accordance with the provisions of the GATT.

The communique adds that these steps seek the repeal of measures like those adopted by the United States because they violate agreements within the GATT.

The Foreign Ministry communique adds that the OAS Permanent Council has also been informed about the situation created by the U.S. decision, because it violates the OAS charter, which rejects coercive economic and political measures imposed on the sovereign will of other states.

The communique adds that similar steps have been taken within the SELA, whose permanent secretary has been informed about the effects of the U.S. decision. The decision undermines the resolutions of the Permanent Council against coercive measures that undermine the sovereignty and economic security of member states, and their right to independent economic development.

The Foreign Ministry has sent the secretary general of UNCTAD a similar note denouncing the violation of principles included in UNCTAD and UN General Assembly resolutions.

The communique adds that the Chilean Government has presented a note to the ILO general director demanding that member countries respect conclusions adopted by the organization regarding matters under its jurisdiction, and that they not adopt independent actions that have nothing to do with labor rights.

The Foreign Ministry communique concludes by stating that this case has been explained to all sectors of the nation that have raised their voice against this discriminatory measure, demanding the adoption of appropriate necessary actions and contacts.

Former French Prime Minister on Plebiscite

PY080123 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius has stated that his country will send international observers to Chile to inspect the upcoming plebiscite. He added that although the plebiscite is a debatable system of presidential succession, it is an exceptional occasion

in which to change the current system, provided that all parties have equal access to the communications media, a sufficient number of voters registered, and a free and balanced campaign.

The former prime minister made these remarks after a meeting with leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, led by Patricio Aylwin.

[Begin Fabius recording, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] We have to send international observers to prevent the government from committing abuses, and to see that the campaign is well balanced. Unfortunately, we are still far from this today, so we have much work ahead of us. [end recording]

Regarding the need to provide for negotiations between the Armed Forces and the democratic sectors, the former prime minister stated that responsible political leaders must think carefully about the strategy to follow in this regard without giving up their convictions.

Minister Criticizes Remarks

PY090138 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez has categorically rejected remarks by former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, who is visiting the country at the invitation of opposition political leaders.

The interior minister's statement says:

1. We categorically reject Mr Fabius' remarks and comments on our democratic process and on Chilean justice.

2. Mr Fabius lacks the moral and legal competence and authority to comment on matters that are of the exclusive concern of Chileans.

3. Mr Fabius has made remarks and comments on our country without knowledge of the country's situation and without having studied our situation. This has been confirmed by the fact that he made remarks condemning Chile immediately upon arriving at the airport.

4. It is clear to all Chileans that Mr Fabius' behavior stems from a personal political maneuver aimed at enhancing his own personal image in France, an image that has been adversely affected by serious and wretched events that are well known.

5. All comments regarding our democratic process and Chilean justice represent unacceptable interference in our domestic affairs and reveal an imperialistic desire which has been irresponsibly supported by some Chilean political sectors.

Shortly before making this statement, Minister Fernandez had made other comments, including one on the visit of (Carl Gershman), chairman of the U.S. Foundation for Democracy, who is coordinating the presentation of $1 million to the Chilean political opposition.

Fernandez stated: We Chileans do not like foreigners to come here to make comments on matters that are of the exclusive concern of this country. We do not like it because we are proud and because we do not need foreigners to give us formulas to solve our problems, especially if they themselves are vulnerable to criticism.

Allende's Daughter Not Allowed in Country

PY092233 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1405 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] A Santiago morning newspaper today reported that the government of General Augusto Pinochet has denied permission to Maria Isabel Allende Bussi, the daughter of former Chilean President Salvador Allende, to enter the country.

The Santiago newspaper LA EPOCA reported that the refusal of the government, which is addressed to Gonzalo Meza, the son of Isabel Allende, is signed by Alberto Cardemil, the under secretary of the interior.

Gonzalo Meza had asked the military government to allow his mother to enter the country.

The ministerial note states: "Taking into accout a study of Maria Isabel Allende Bussi's background, the Interior Ministry has decided against changing the measure that prevents her return to Chile."

Upon learning of the government's refusal, Meza, who is living in Santiago, stated: "The government's attitude confirms once again that it is not very willing to move toward democracy, and that freedom remains restricted, because Isabel Allende has no pending trials or any legal debts to the regime."

Allende's grandson added: "There are no excuses for preventing a Chilean from entering or leaving his country."

Colombia

More on Response, Reaction to Ochoa Release

Minister on Arrest Warrants

PA072328 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—A few moments ago, on this station, Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra discussed the arrest warrants, with the intention of extradition, that he

issued against the Ochoa Vasquez brothers, Pablo Escobar, and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha in response to a new verbal notification from the U.S. Embassy requesting 6 extraditions for 39 charges related to drug trafficking.

Minister Low Murtra admitted that the release of alleged drug trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa from La Picota Penitentiary constitutes a setback, but he said all his actions were in keeping with current laws.

The U.S verbal note specifies six people, but one of them, John Doe, could not be fully identified in that document; therefore, the arrest warrants with the intention to extradite just issued by the executive do not include him.

The justice minister said on this station that there reportedly are 14 new charges against these people. Of the 39 charges specified in the verbal note, 25 are [words indistinct] to the investigations of Criminal Court 45 of Medellin. He said a few moments ago that the new government attitude responds to a verbal note issued by the U.S. Embassy to the Colombian Foreign Ministry on 1 January 1988.

When asked to comment about the criticism of editorialists who even demanded his resignation, he said that Ochoa Vasquez' release was certainly a blow to him; those commentaries are similar to those made by fans and sports commentators after a soccer team loses a game.

However, Low Murtra added: I will not hesitate to make the necessary decisions. In any case, he said that his actions will always be in keeping with the law.

Attorney General To Investigate

PA081602 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Report by Claudia Munoz; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Text] In 10 days, the Attorney General's Office will determine Justice Minister's Enrique Low Murtra's responsibility in the Ochoa case. This is because Justice Minister Low Murtra issued a warrant, which he later suspended, for the drug trafficker's arrest. That enabled a judge to order Ochoa's release in an irregular manner.

[Attorney General Carlos Hoyos] "I have ordered an appropriate investigation be conducted to establish the actions and responsibility of Justice Minister Low Murtra. In this way we can decide whether the case merits sending the findings to the honorable Chamber of Representatives for appropriate actions."

[Public Prosecutor Fernando Navas Talero] "We have to analyze the ministry's decision regarding the U.S. petition for extradition and the arrests warrants that have been issued against Mr Ochoa."

There will also be a disciplinary investigation of Prisons Director Guillermo Ferro, who delayed sending a memorandum to the La Picota jail director informing him that Ochoa had been summoned by Court Number 45 in Medellin. This document would have prevented the release of the drug trafficker. The prisons director also violated the penitentiary law because he gave Ochoa preferential and privileged treatment.

[Prisons Director Guillermo Ferro] "What happened is that his rights had been heavily restricted; he was in isolation and he had to be heavily guarded. We were totally responsible for him. The cell he occupied is separated from the rest of the prison facilities. He was not allowed many visitors during weekends. So, because of this individual's special conditions he was placed under a different regimen."

The Colombian Attorney General's office has also ordered that Assistant Prisons Director Benjamin Bustos be investigated, along with La Picota Jail Director Alvaro Camacho. They are to be investigated for nonfeasance and negligence, as well as for the suspicious speed with which certain petitions were resolved. The results of the attorney general's report demonstrate the numerous irregularities that had to occur for the release of Jorge Luis Ochoa. Investigations will continue and in about 2 months detailed results and the final report will be released.

Further on Protest to U.S.

PA071432 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota—Today, Colombia expressed, in a protest note to the United States, its deep concern over the discriminatory treatment accorded to Colombian export products and passengers in the United States.

The Colombian Government insisted to the Reagan administration that it has been a standard-bearer in the struggle against narcotics trafficking and that President Virgilio Barco is one of the leading advocates of the extradition treaty. In particular, it was recalled that these assertions are backed up by the immediate handover of Colombian national Carlos Lehder Rivas, who is currently being tried in Jacksonville, Florida.

Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes handed the protest note to Phil MacLean, U.S. charge d'affaires in Bogota. The note refers to the discriminatory measures at ports and customs facilities against Colombian passengers, merchandise, export firms, and sea and air transport enterprises.

This information was sent by telefax to the leading world newspapers. Copies of the speech to the country by Justice Minister Enrique Low Murtra, in which he exclusively referred to the Ochoa Vasquez case, were also sent to Colombian embassies in various countries.

President Barco, who unexpectedly traveled to Cartagena last night, is studying the situation with several of his cabinet ministers.

Paraguay

U.S. Envoy's Remarks, Bilateral Ties Viewed

U.S. Relations Said Normal

PY090259 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Jan 88 p 11

[Text] Martin Chiola, political secretary of the Colorado Party Executive Board and leader of the Colorado Party bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, has told ULTIMA HORA: "Paraguayans are the sole masters of the process the country is experiencing," adding that there is no intention of satisfying any foreign governments because "our affairs concern Paraguayans alone."

"All Paraguayans are masters of our process, and according to our foreign minister, our domestic affairs will be resolved by Paraguayans." Chiola made these remarks while discussing the meeting he held with the U.S. ambassador to discuss U.S.-Paraguayan relations.

Chiola remarked that "relations are being maintained within the framework of absolute normalcy. The Paraguayan Government has always maintained cordial relations with the United States and will continue respecting all international agreements and commitments. Domestic policy concerns the Paraguayan Government alone, and it will not be subordinated to suggestions or opinions of any person at all."

Regarding Taylor's opinion that "relations are normal, but with some rough places [baches]," Chiola said this opinion has to be clarified. "Well, I do not understand what he means when he says rought places. This is not clear. Therefore, the ambassador and the Foreign Ministry have to define the meaning of rough places."

Chiola stressed that "our policy cannot be based on subservience to or supervision by any foreign country. Our affairs must be resolved by Paraguayans."

On the meeting in general, Chiola said: "I have found moderation in Taylor's remarks, which characterizes the reality of our relations with the U.S. Government." Chiola added: "We will not admit colonialist intentions." Chiola stated that the general situation of the country is good. "We are living in a state of law, amid permanent order. The branches of government are fulfilling their duties normally and the citizens' activities are regulated by the administration in compliance with the national Constitution and the prevailing laws."

Ambassador's Attitude Criticized

PY090222 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Jan 88 pp 10-11

[Text] Roberto Velazquez Escobar, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, has been asked about statements by Ambassador Clyde Taylor regarding relations between Paraguay and the United States, and the Paraguayan political situation. Velazquez said: "Ambassador Taylor is really the only obstacle hindering relations between Paraguay and the United States because ever since he came here, the only thing Taylor has tried to do is get in contact with the opposition, through which he intends to destabilize the Colorado government of President Stroessner."

Velazquez, who is also a member of the Colorado Party Executive Board, added that it is obvious Taylor intends to create problems for the government "because he is in permanent contact with opposition sectors. Taylor's contact with the government has only been at the administrative level, and he has done very little, or better said, nothing, regarding relations with the ruling party."

Velazquez also said: "Taylor assumed his diplomatic duties with a bias, and his attitude has contributed more to delaying the progress of our relations than to strengthening them."

Velazquez stated: "We have discussed this gentleman's attitude toward Paraguayan politics on many occasions. We also stated our opinion on what Ambassador Davis is doing in Panama, at the Latin American lawmakers conference that was held in Cartagena de Indias. In Paraguay, Davis was one of the indirect sponsors of the civic assemblies staged by opposition sectors. However, here in Paraguay the reality is quite different and the civic strength of the Colorado Party prevents actions aimed at political destabilization."

Velazquez and other lawmakers reiterated in the Chamber of Deputies the firm position of the national government against foreign intervention in Paraguayan domestic affairs.

PATRIA on Taylor Interview

PY091548 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 9 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Setting an Ambassador Straight"]

[Text] The last passage of the long interview the U.S. ambassador gave to ULTIMA HORA deserves some examination. In that passage, referring to his close friends in Paraguay, the ambassador said "they want the best for their country, for their families. We, therefore, can identify with their principles and hopes. If there is

something that bothers us—and this is basic in life and ethics—it is lost opportunities. If there is a message we want to convey to all our colleagues and friends of the Paraguayan people, it is this: Let us take advantage of the opportunities and privileges existing in this country."

In fact, as with any human being, there is nothing keeping the ambassador from having close friends, and from giving them his affection. That those close friends should want "the best for their country, for their families" is also quite reasonable. However, it is not necessary to belong to the ambassador's circle of close friends to wish the best for our country and our families. This aspiration is in the heart of every Paraguayan and, in a free country of the free world, each person who harbors such a noble aspiration has the right and freedom to seek the path leading to such an objective. In fact, the path that each Paraguayan chooses to fulfill that aspiration is a matter of his own conscience and his own convictions, which must only be evaluated in light of his sincerity, good faith, and patriotism.

The evaluation of the aspirations of the people cannot be based on the affections of a human being, but on the capacity of a diplomat from a friendly and allied country to understand their aspirations. But this understanding will not necessarily be gained at friendly dinners or cocktail parties, but through a concern about the history of this country; the determinants of our past tragedies; the cyclical efforts to overcome sometimes bloody disputes; and the hopes of a nation devouring itself after being devoured by foreigners that flourished in 1954, when we bagan a long period of peace and put an end to the violence that punctuated our political history. Concerns such as these cannot be nurtured at mere social gatherings.

Therefore, past situations cannot be assessed through alien standards by recommending models that must be followed blindly. Democracy in the United States, to cite an example close to the ambassador's experience, was born with that nation more than 200 years ago. The United States was fortunate to have the Anglo-Saxon tradition, which it maintained even at the cost of a bloody civil war, the war of secession, and despite the assassination of six or seven presidents as recorded in its history. We inherited from Spain the rebellious Latin or Arab-Latin spirit. We did not have a Jefferson or a Washington, but men of similar stature like Dr Francia and Don Carlos Antonio Lopez. Before coming to government, they KNEW [preceding word in boldface as published] their people and gave them the system of government the country required at that time and which the people accepted as the best expression of their temperament. Unfortunately, Marshal Francisco Solano Lopez could not consolidate that process of affirmation of our identity through a form of democracy adjusted to our country's temperament. He was prevented from doing so by a war of genocide waged against us...on behalf of freedom!

If anyone denies that General Bernardino Caballero tried to return to what we call National Cause, the democratic essence of which is clearly stated in the ANR [Republican National Association—Colorado Party] founding manifesto, he would be denying the existence of reality and of a recognized fact. Furthermore, if anyone does not recognize that President Stroessner attained what Caballero could not consolidate, he is not being objective, not because of bad faith, we suppose, but because of his ignorance of history.

The return to the correct path occurred in 1954. Something from Francia's period can be seen in President Stroessner's leadership today, taking into account the differences resulting from different eras, because while Francia closed the country to annexation attempts, Stroessner continuously proclaims the principle of self-determination, which is nothing more than a modern definition of the attitude assumed by the fathers of our independence. Even though Carlos Antonio Lopez could pursue a personal policy for the modernization of the country by the incorporation of modern technology, his behavior regarding our sovereignty reflects the thinking of his predecessor. This with the possible difference that he thought Paraguayans could be modern people in a modern country, but never subservient people in a subservient country. President Stroessner has maintained the same policy since 1954 with spectacular results. This policy has moved us closer to a friendly Western world, but has also moved us closer to the lasting values of our nationality and our nationalism, which is the force that pushes us to progressively improve our own type of democracy.

If the ambassador sees "holes" in the relations between his country and ours, as stated in ULTIMA HORA, despite the fact that these holes are also "normal," in no way can we admit that the "holes" are caused by our lack of democracy. A better analysis of the matter will show that the "holes" are aught but "breaches" between U.S. history, culture, and tradition, and Paraguayan history, culture, and tradition—both of them very respectable, but each one useless to serve as a model for the other.

We are a free country in a free world. We do not believe that in order "to deserve" this privilege we have to renounce our identity or accept models that do not fit our idiosyncracies. It is a great mistake to demand something like that. This was shown in Cuba and Nicaragua, where subtle, and sometimes open, pressure did not bring about a solution but caused worse problems.

Peru

Government Extends State of Emergency

PA101450 Paris AFP in Spanish 2113 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (AFP)—It was officially reported here today that the Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency—with the suspension of constitutional guarantees—an additional 60 days in 10 provinces of San Martin and Huanuco Departments in the Amazon region.

The state of emergency was extended in nine provinces of San Martin jurisdiction: Moyobamba, Bellavista, Huallaga, Lamas, Picota, Rioja, San Martin, Mariscal Caceres, and Tocache; plus the province of Leoncio Prado and the district of Cholon in Huanuco Department.

The respective decree was published today in the official newspaper EL PERUANO, stating that "the acts of violence which motivated the implementation of that measure in the region" still prevail in those areas. The measures were implemented on 10 November when the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) began operating openly.

The document indicates that "it is necessary to maintain the measures to restore public order in the mentioned zones," and adds that the Armed Forces will continue to exert military control in the region.

Bodies of Alleged Rebels Reportedly Found
PA101340 Paris AFP in Spanish 2315 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 7 Jan (AFP)—Travelers reported today that the bodies of approximately 50 alleged guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), which began rebel activities in the Amazonian San Martin Department last November, were food for the birds of prey in San Jose de Sisa valley.

Businessmen coming from the hamlets of Pacasmayo, Los Aguanos, and Porotongos, 140 km west of Tarapoto, said the bodies of approximately 50 rebels killed in clashes with the Peruvian Army, "probably during the most recent weapons confiscation operation in that region," were lying in the tangle of the jungle at the mercy of flocks of vultures and buzzards. The businessmen did not give the precise date of the discovery.

A correspondent of the Lima morning paper LA REPUBLICA obtained a report that was neither confirmed nor denied by the authorities stating that the casualties, who were probably abandoned by their comrades, "were wearing olive green uniforms, rubber boots, had long beards, and were holding on to their weapons."

Military authorities reported that a few days ago, Army patrols discovered six MRTA clandestine weapons caches near San Jose de Sisa valley. The Army found automatic rifles, machineguns, ammunition, and other war materiel. The authorities also discovered abandoned camps.

In addition, a Shining Path guerrilla column yesterday entered Siato hamlet, in the Ayacuchan province of La Mar in the southeastern Andean region. The rebels killed a young peasant and burned 10 houses belonging to people the rebels accused of being police informers, residents reported yesterday.

The police also reported that Mayor Ricardo Woocolty and other authorities of Huamachuco, La Libertad, 500 km north of Lima, were threatened with death by the Shining Path if they remain in their posts.

Last Tuesday, Victor Manuel Sotomayorel, Huamachuco Province deputy police chief and APRA member, was shot to death.

General Jose Eduardo Valdivia, the new chief of the political, military emergency zone of Ayacucho, will be officially appointed next Monday in a military ceremony to be held at Cabitos-51 quarters in Ayacucho Department.

General Valdivia, the sixth military chief to occupy that post in the region, will explain the work he will develop to fight the rebel movement in the region and will visit various military bases in the area.

Uruguay

Economy Minister Comments on Debt Situation
PY061631 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0159 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 5 Jan (EFE)—Uruguayan Economy Minister Ricardo Zerbino disclosed during a news conference that the country's overall net foreign debt has decreased and that "no new resources have been or will be requested."

Zerbino added that the public debt has increased by $23 million since December 1986, which means that it has increased from $1.862 billion to $1.885 billion.

Zerbino added: "However, taking the overall debt into account—that is, the public and private debt—we notice a reduction of $11 million, which represents a drop from $2.594 billion to $2.583 billion."

Zerbino also said the foreign debt-GDP ratio has improved as a result of internal growth for the second consecutive year.

According to the minister, during 1986 the debt accounted for 23.5 percent of the GDP, while in 1987 it will be under 20 percent.

The Uruguayan gross foreign debt amounts to $5.375 billion: $4.022 billion for the public sector and $1.352 billion for the private sector [figures as received].

In 1987 Uruguay earmarked 22 percent of its exports to pay interest on the foreign debt, and it intends to use a little under 20 percent this year.

Venezuela

Energy Minister on Oil Price Recovery

PA101245 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti has presented a report to the cabinet pointing out the positive results of the resolutions adopted at the last OPEC meeting. Hernandez Grisanti said that after having experienced a considerable drop in oil prices, a good $2 recovery has been recently attained.

Minister Hernandez praised the decision made by the Gulf Cooperation Council and other nations to issue communiques in defense of the OPEC price structure.

[Begin recording] The psychological perception of the oil market has caused an initial recovery of oil prices. If we consolidate this position in the next 2 or 3 weeks, if all countries maintain their willingness to defend the price structure—as I expect they will—and if they do not give in to the buyers' pressures, we will attain the goal we set in the last OPEC meeting, which is to sell oil at $18 per barrel. [end recording]

Operation Begins in Colombian Border Area

PA072333 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] A gigantic military operation began today along the Colombian border to counter a number of recent crimes committed by drug traffickers and rebels in that area.

The operation is being coordinated by the 1st and 2d Infantry Divisions and it also has the support of members of all the state security organizations. The mobilization is primarily to locate the exact places where rebel drug traffickers hide. They have already kidnapped five Venezuelan cattlemen and stolen a small plane belonging to the Barinas State governorship.

Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi met with his cabinet today to hear a report presented by the defense, interior, and justice ministers concerning the additional measures which will be taken in the next few days to recover the confidence of cattlemen and farmers, who have systematically denounced the insecurity in that area.

Carlos Croes, director of the Central Information Office, said the need to restore peace and confidence in the Colombian border area was fully discussed by the president and his cabinet members.

[Begin Croes recording] President Lusinchi categorically requested his ministers to accelerate the operations they will carry out in the border area to restore normalcy and guarantee citizens' safety. [end recording]

The measures that the Venezuelan authorities will take are also to fight drug trafficking and the illegal flow of Colombian citizens to Venezuela.

The Venezuelan state security organizations will be permanently posted in the Colombian border area. Those organizations, along with the area's cattlemen and farmers, will establish ways to face this crime wave which has broken out in that area.

Guyana

President Hoyte Makes Cabinet Changes

FL051900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1449 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 5, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte has relinquished responsibility for co-operatives and agriculture.

Hoyte assigned Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture Dr Patrick Mckenzie full responsibility for agriculture and Senior Minister of Labour Seeram Prashad, control of co-operatives.

A press release from the office of the president on Monday night said the changes were in effect from January 1.

The President's Office also announced that responsibility for the Ministry of Legal Affairs has been transferred to Vice President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister Ranji Chandisingh, pending further arrangements.

It is evident from the release that Chandisingh, who is not known to have a legal background, will shoulder responsibility for the ministry on a temporary basis.

In the meantime, speculation mounts here as to who will succeed Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen, the present attorney general, vice president, first deputy prime minister and Attorney General Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen who takes up an appointment as a judge at the the world court next month. [sentence as received] Shahabuddeen is currently on leave until February 5, immediately before taking up his appointment at the world court.

As one of four vice-presidents, Shahabuddeen was the number three man (falling immediately after President Hoyte and Prime Minister Hamilton Green) in the government's hierarchial structure.

Those falling immediately after him are Vice Presidents Chandisingh and Viola Burnham followed by Deputy Prime Ministers Haslyn Parris (planning and development) and Robert Corbin (public utilities), some observers say.

It is doubtful whether whoever replaces him as the attorney general and minister of justice will also be appointed a vice president.

Some observers contend that Hubert Jack, a former minister of energy now serving as ambassador to Brazil, is a front-runner for the job and given his earlier seniority in the governmental structure before going to Brazil, he might also be considered for the vice-presidency.

At the moment, there is only one other name being publicly mentioned as a candidate for the attorney general slot—attorney-at-law Clarence Hughes.

Suriname

Military Police Investigate Pokigron Incident

FL071852 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The military police have launched an investigation into complaints by residents of the Pokigron Village. Civilians and the district's commissioner of the Sipaliwini District has informed the Army about the death of seven villagers. Soldiers of the National Army are allegedly involved in the killing of these people.

Military Police Commander (Lieuw Van Ti) yesterday said that the investigations have not yet been completed. He hopes to give more information on this matter later this week.

Activist Reportedly Arrested

FL081152 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] From Suriname, human rights activitist (Stanley Wrench) was reportedly taken from his house in Paramaribo yesterday afternoon and arrested.

Mr (Wrench) is an outspoken critic of the military government and on Wednesday he revealed an alleged massacre of six men by government troops.

An investigation is underway into that.

Rights Activist Questioned

FL081939 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] Because of the insulting and slanderous remarks made via the Dutch NRC [ROTTERDAM NRC HANDELSBLAD] last Wednesday, the military police yesterday summoned (Stanley Wrench) for questioning. Military Police Commander (Lieuw Van Ti) said the attitude of (Wrench) was anti-national, adding it was meant to influence a present military investigation in a negative way.

District's commissioner of Sipaliwini and civilians from the Pokigron area had informed the Army about the deaths of six villagers in which soldiers were allegedly involved. The military police immediately started investigations.

Commander (Lieuw Van Ti) said that (Stanley Wrench) and his brother, Ronny, had often put the National Army in a bad light in Suriname and abroad by making contentious reports about the head of the National Army. The (Wrench) brothers have often been questioned by the military police for this.

National Assembly To Elect President 12 Jan

FL071758 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The election of president and vice president will take place on Tuesday, January 12th, during a special public meeting of the National Assembly. The National Assembly has installed a commission to make preparations for the election and installation of the president and vice president of the Republic.

The election will take place on Tuesday in the National Assembly while the installation will take place on January 25th. Various countries from the region and abroad, political and international organizations will be invited for the installation of the head of state.

The commission charged with the responsibility of preparing the election procedures is headed by assembly member (Arnold Breslam).

Parties Choose Assembly President Candidates

VHP Makes Selections

FL071915 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The candidates for the positions of president and vice president of the Republic are already known. Contrary to what the NPS [National Party of Suriname] had proposed last Sunday, yesterday evening a VHP [United Reformist Party] congress proposed Engineer (R. Sankar) as the presidential candidate and not party chairman Jaggernath Lachmon.

Lachmon is of the opinion that he can better serve the country as chairman of the National Assembly.

The NPS congress has proposed party chairman Henk Arron as the candidate for the position of vice president.

It is not known if other candidates for the post would be nominated.

The election of president and vice president will take place on Tuesday January 12th during a special public meeting of the National Assembly.

Daily on NPS Choices

PM081413 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 4 Jan 88 p 3

[Unattributed dispatch: "Surinamese National Party Fields Arron as Vice Presidential Candidate"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 4 Jan—The congress of the Surinamese National Party yesterday decided unanimously that Progressive Reformed Party leader Jaggernath Lachmon and its own leader, Henck Arron, should run for Surinamese president and vice president respectively.

The congress took the view that because of the outcome of the recent elections no other course is possible and that the two politicians have no choice but to agree to run.

The selection of candidates was the most important point on the agenda of the congress which convened yesterday morning. Prior to the decision reached by the congress, Party Chairman Arron made a detailed speech in which he explained that he has reservations about accepting the post of vice president. He said the party finds itself in a transitional phase and he would prefer to give the party leadership as its chairman in this phase. Arron takes the view that credibility is threatened if the party chairman also holds the post of head of government.

The post of vice president amounts to that of head of government since, under the new Constitution, the vice president is chairman of the Council of Ministers. The congress was not persuaded by Arron's arguments and gave its support to individual speakers who argued that the election result, which was a huge victory for the Front for Democracy and Development, showed that the voters had opted massively for being led by the front's political leaders. That is the political interpretation of the election result, it was argued.

Front To Choose Engineer

FL081321 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The National Assembly in Suriname will vote next week to elect a new president. The choice is likely to be a man with little political experience, agricultural engineer (Ramshowak Sankar).

The Front for Democracy and Development which controls a majority of the assembly in Suriname was expected to elect its chairman, assemblyman Jaggernath Lachmon, but Mr Lachmon said last month he wanted to retain his place in the assembly.

The 51-year old Mr (Sankar) was minister of agriculture in a pre-independence government.

Lachmon Regrets Lack of Assembly Opposition

FL081951 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] The United Reformist Party, VHP, congress last Wednesday approved the candidacy of engineer (Ramshowak Sankar) as president for the Republic.

In 1969 (Sankar) participated in the interim cabinet of Prime Minister (Meid) as minister of justice and police and later became the minister of agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. The presidential candidate has also been director of the Foundation for Mechanical Agriculture in Wageningen and was active within the private rice sector.

The other front parties, the NPS [National Party of Suriname] and KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party] support his nomination.

During the VHP congress, Lachmon said that he's convinced that the coming Cabinet will be a good one because the candidate ministers are being carefully selected. The veteran politician, however, regrets the fact that there won't be opposition in the assembly. According to Assembly Chairman Lachmon, democracy doesn't exist without opposition. Opposition is necessary to control the government and to guide development, said Lachmon.

The front won 40 of the 51 seats in the National Assembly.

KTPI's Soemita Chosen Deputy Prime Minister

FL081915 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 88

[Text] KTPI [Indonesian Peasants' Party] Chairman Willy Soemita said that his party has also been a part in the selection of candidates for the post of president and vice president.

The NPS [National Party of Suriname] has appointed its chairman Henk Arron for the position of vice president while the VHP [United Reformist Party] proposed Engineer (Sankar) as the new president.

According to Soemita, Lachmon is at the right place as chairman of the National Assembly because the young people's representation needs a strong chairman.

The evening paper DE WEST announced that Soemita will become the minister of the Development Ministry, which is yet to be created. He will also become the deputy prime minister, according to the DE WEST.

Until now, five ministries each have been allocated to the NPS and VHP, while three have been allocated to the KTPI. Top officials of the front say that they are also thinking about the possibility of introducing deputy ministers.